



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran Aid is banned in Britain

The Charity Commission last night banned Iran Aid from fundraising in Britain after complaints that its collectors had used strong-arm tactics to gain donations. There were claims that volunteers had stopped pedestrians and demanded minimum £75 donations. On other occasions collectors went round houses showing pictures of torture victims. Once inside, they would refuse to leave unless given a substantial donation.

Iran Aid will not be able to resume fundraising until it convinces the commission it has introduced proper controls and training of volunteers. The charity's accounts will also be scrutinised.

## Smuggling bill

Tobacco and drink bootleggers could be costing Britain £70 million a year in lost excise duty, a government survey says. The smugglers are exploiting reduced checks at European Union frontiers and new rules on allowances for personal use.

The figures were calculated after a survey last June of travellers returning through southern and eastern ports.

## Body in blanket

The body of a woman has been found wrapped in a blanket on a patch of grass near flats in Clapham, south London. Janice Fields, 37, who was deaf and dumb, was reported missing from her home in Tulse Hill, south London, on Monday.

Police said the body had been on the grass for some time but passers-by thought it was a vagrant sleeping.

## Strike suspended

Strike action on the InterCity West Coast line due to take place today and Monday, has been suspended. All strikes planned for the weekend on other lines have now been called off, the Rail and Maritime Transport union confirmed. The next industrial action by ticket collectors and conductors over pay and conditions has been set for September 28.

## Boy is freed

A 17-year-old who faced conscription into the Iranian Army when he was seized after visiting relatives in Iran returned home safely last night. Reza Afshar, an A-level student in High Wycombe, who was born in Britain, was travelling on an Iranian passport with his sister Sara and their mother Farideh, 43.

Iranian officials said it had been a misunderstanding.

## Foreign ship used

A foreign-owned ferry will enter service at the end of October with the recently formed Joint Rapid Deployment Force. The 17,500-ton *Sea Crusader*, which will carry heavy equipment, will be manned by Royal Fleet Auxiliary crew.

She will answer immediate needs while long-term options are considered. No suitable British ferries were offered.

## Open longer

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has decided to increase the length of the Old Course at St Andrews by about 200 yards for the millennium Open Championship. Tees will be moved, and some new ones built, because technical advances in equipment and increased physical fitness have allowed professional players to drive over the most feared hazards.

## Maxwell ruling: Serious Fraud Office criticised for pursuing second trial

## Judge wants end to 'prosecute at any price' policy

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE judge who halted the case against Kevin Maxwell told the prosecuting authorities that they must not be allowed to pursue a defendant without heed to the high public costs of disruption to the person's family life and career.

Mr Justice Buckley ruled that another long, multi-million-pound trial would outrage the public and risk suggesting that the authorities did not accept the first jury's verdict. This would 'test' both the public's confidence and the integrity of the system.

He said that it would appear that the authorities were 'determined to pursue the defendant at whatever cost to the public purse, court time or disruption of the defendant's personal life, business or professional career. That must not happen.'

The judge concluded: 'I have reached a very clear view

that these proceedings serve no further public interest.' Formal acquittals were entered and he ordered the defendants' costs to be paid out of public funds.

He said that the most serious charges — the alleged misuse of pension funds — had gone before a jury and the defendants had been acquitted. 'To override all consideration for the defendants and their families and what they must have endured and to launch another long trial at enormous expense would run a grave risk of suggesting to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of a jury. I do not propose to run that risk.'

A second trial would also be 'unfair, so unfair as to amount to an abuse of power of the court'.

He singled out evidence from Pandora Maxwell, Kevin

Maxwell's wife, as to the effect

that these proceedings serve no further public interest.

The judge's ruling leaves open the problem of how any future large fraud should be handled. John Wood, former director of the Serious Fraud Office, has recently called for a look at the Hong Kong system where there are only half a dozen jurors, who must have attained a certain educational level.

Anne Rafferty, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, agreed that the decision raised difficulties for the prosecution. But the failure to secure convictions could not be regarded as a failure of the jury system 'unless you regard every defendant as guilty'.

Certainly, Mr Justice Buckley made it clear yesterday that if there are failings in the criminal justice system, neither Kevin Maxwell, nor any other defendant, should be the scapegoat.

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Quest for millions, page 27



Kevin Maxwell, left, and his brother Ian after hearing Mr Justice Buckley's judgment yesterday

## Sons exploit father's eastern promise

BY JON ASHWORTH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

ROBERT MAXWELL'S impassive face gazed from the front row of Court 13 at the High Court as his youngest son, Kevin, was told his legal ordeal over.

The late media tycoon was depicted on the front cover of a biography fittingly titled *Maxwell: The Final Verdict*. Four years, three months and one day after Kevin and Ian Maxwell's arrests, the Honourable Mr Justice Buckley had taken five seconds to end the affair.

A murmur of surprise greeted the judge's comments that had Robert Maxwell himself been in court, he would probably have received less than the ten years' maximum sentence. As it is, his influence continues to prevail over Kevin and Ian from beyond the grave, just as he dominated them when alive. Robert

Maxwell made much of his early fortune in the former Soviet Union, where he boasted of contacts at the highest level. Today, his sons are using those contacts to good effect — through their role as consultants to Westbourne Consultants, a London-based organisation which does extensive work in the former Soviet Union. Westbourne is run by Jean Baddeley, Robert Maxwell's former long-serving personal assistant, who has afforded Kevin and Ian a measure of dignity during the long months since their father's death in November 1991.

A Russian satellite television channel and a telecommunications venture are among projects being pursued by the pair, who use their marketing and financial skills in advising companies.



Robert Maxwell: his influence persists

Westbourne is a consultant to *Maximov's Companion*, the guide to prominent people in Russia. It has also been linked with the English-language *Moscow Tribune* newspaper.

Both brothers have travelled to the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe in

the course of their work for Westbourne. Kevin has been seen in Moscow and is known to have visited industrial cities in Siberia and Kazakhstan. Earlier in the year, they were trying to raise Western financial backing for a national satellite service, carrying a mixture of films, news and sport. Mrs Baddeley said the project was progressing.

Kevin and Ian would continue to work for her for the time being. Mrs Baddeley said, although they were clearly now free to pursue other opportunities. Mrs Baddeley had benefited from the Maxwells' skill and expertise — for considerably less than they would normally be able to charge. She uses nine or ten consultants on a regular basis. She welcomed yesterday's ruling, saying: 'I've always had the highest regard for the family. I've seen the boys grow up.'

## Hurd widens rift

Continued from page 1  
and the Cabinet into a tougher line against Brussels. He told

*The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 that pro-Europeans who until now had been afraid of 'rocking the boat' would no longer stay silent.

Mr Hurd said newspaper headlines over Europe showed how 'skewed' the debate had become. 'We have seen this over and over again. The Government sets out a view. Some of the sceptics attack it. Everybody else is expected to stay quiet. If we speak our minds, we are told: "Oh, you must not rock the boat." We have passed that point now.'

Tony Blair exploited the row last night. He told a forum organised by *The Times* and Dilions: 'Today we have heard some distinguished senior Conservatives trying to stop the mad rush of today's Tory party towards leaving Europe. But as long as there is no leadership from the top, the Government will be paralysed.'

There was immediate relief for the enthusiasts and disappointment for the sceptics

## Crime figures rise again after three years of decline

BY RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDER

CRIME in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order.

Michael Howard will attempt to put an optimistic gloss on the increase when he unveils the latest figures for recorded crime from the country's 43 police forces next week. The rise in crimes reported in the 12 months to the end of June reverses recent trends in which recorded offences fell for three successive years.

The latest figures — more than five million offences in a year — are a deep disappointment to the Home Secretary and an embarrassment to the Government on the eve of the last Conservative Party conference before the general election.

Figures for the second half of 1995 showed that there were 42,700 more recorded

crimes than in the first six months and the upward trend in crime continued during the early months of this year.

Property crime was falling but personal and violent crime was rising.

Mr Howard, who has spent more than three years attempting to regain the initiative on law and order, said earlier this year when trends suggested crime was rising again that he could not guarantee the downward trend would continue.

In Northumbria, recorded

crime in rose by 9,263 offences or 6.5 per cent compared with the previous 12 month period.

Total violent crime rose by 13.6 per cent to 12,517 offences, including robberies by 46.2 per cent to 3,252 and violent

attacks by 6.9 per cent to 8,388, although sexual offences

dropped by 6.8 per cent to 877.

Domestic burglaries fell by 2.2 per cent to 20,157 and other

burglaries dropped by 4 per

cent to 12,162.

The Home Secretary will highlight good news from the Metropolitan Police where recorded crime is continuing to fall and figures from Northumbria showing the number of crimes falling by 11.5 per cent between January and June 1996 compared with the same period in 1995.

In Merseyside, recorded

crime fell by 13 per cent to

11,163, other burglaries by 18.3

per cent to 11,289, and criminal

damage by 12.9 per cent to

11,989. Common assault fell by

10 per cent and the overall fall

in crimes of violence was 7 per

cent. But robberies increased

by 7.1 per cent.

Recorded crime fell in Eng-

land and Wales by 2.9 per cent

in 1995, following a drop of 5

per cent in 1993 and 1 per cent

in 1994. The third time that there were falls in three consecutive years.

## Bishop has son

Continued from page 1  
a picture of a young Roderick

Wright on one side and his son on the other.

Kevin Wright was born in 1981 — nine years before his father was appointed Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and shortly after he was moved

from a parish in Fort William to become parish priest in South Uist, in Scotland's Western Isles.

Kevin, a good-looking, dark-haired young man with a striking resemblance to the Bishop, said: 'I haven't seen him for more than two months all put together in my whole life. And it's been useless then because I was really awkward talking to him. I could not speak to him and he did not speak to me particularly much. I realise I have lost a lot through not having a father here. It wasn't necessary, and it should not happen to many children.'

Father Sean MacAulay, an

Oban priest who lives next door to the Bishop's house, said he heard about the son only last night. He had not spoken to any members of the

congregation and did not know what their reaction was, but he would ask for them to pray for the former bishop at mass.

'I think he needs our pray-

ers more than ever,' he said.

'It is scandalous, there is no getting away from that,' added Father MacAulay, who said he did not think the man should have accepted the post of bishop in 1990. 'That is what I fail to understand. Knowing he had a child and accepting the post that put him very much into the public domain and into a post of great responsibility.'

The episode has echoes of the scandal of Bishop Eamon Casey of Galway, Ireland, four years ago, who also disappeared when news broke that an affair had produced a child. He proved impossible to trace for months. But his location was known by the Church. He was eventually tracked down to Ecuador by Veronica Guerin, the Dublin reporter who was shot dead earlier this year because of her investigations into organised crime.

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Children cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school, Pandora told the judge

## Court was moved by wife's account of family ordeal

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

KEVIN MAXWELL'S children had cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school with gibes that their father would soon be locked up in prison "for years and years", his wife Pandora told the court.

Each morning when he left for the Old Bailey courtroom during the 131-day trial they feared that they would never see him again.

Yesterday, outside the family's home in Moulford, Oxfordshire, she said: "For the past five years it has been like time stood still. Now we can sleep at night again. It has been an enormous burden and this is an enormous weight off all our shoulders."

"It has been very grim. The older children have been crying a lot. They didn't talk about the last day's hearing the night before. They just gave their father a kiss and said 'Goodnight'."

In his judgment Mr Justice Buckley said he believed that Mrs Maxwell's expressions of distress and anger were "entirely genuine". He added: "I cannot be overinfluenced by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved by her evidence."

Teddy, 10, the couple's elder son, was particularly traumatised. "He believed that if his father was sent to jail he would be the only man in the house," she told the High Court a few days ago. "I know that he cried himself to sleep at night. I couldn't cope because when the children burst into tears it would make me burst into tears and as a parent you try not to."

"The children still ask, but in particular Teddy, 'Is Daddy coming home tonight? Is he going to be here? Is he here this weekend?' If they come in in the morning and Kevin is not there, it's, 'Did he come home last night? Was he here?'"

Mr and Mrs Maxwell, who live in a 16-bedroom manor house with her parents, John

and Ruth Warnford-Davis, have six children: Mathilda, 11, Edward (Teddy), Eloise, 8, Chloe, 6, Madeleine, 4, and Thomas, five months. Mrs Maxwell was pregnant with Thomas when the jury returned their unanimous not guilty verdicts last January.

She said that, but for the children, her marriage could well have failed, as had that of her husband's brother, Ian, to his wife, Laura.

Every day of the trial had been agony, she said, particularly when the jury, which deliberated for nine days, retired to consider its verdict.

"The children were very nervous ... but so was Kevin for

**• The children were very nervous. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye**

God's sake. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye."

When he had not been called by 5pm each day she would know that the jury had not come to a verdict and that he would be coming home that night, his overnight bag still packed.

"The children would wait up to see him, and in the morning they would wait to see him before he went, but of course he was leaving at 6am or something so they wouldn't see him and they would be worried about what would happen if he didn't come home that night."

"The children at school occasionally did make remarks, you know: 'Your dad's in court. Your dad's going to prison. My dad says he's going to prison for years and

forfeited,'" she said.

"She described the agony of trial and the days waiting for a verdict with the prospect of a significant prison sentence in the balance."

Mrs Maxwell said yesterday: "It is a 24-hour-a-day job raising children. I wanted them to survive the process intact and they have."

Mathilda dashed home from school to say that she had heard the news in the library with her friend. "We just started crying. I was so pleased. Everyone was crying." Flowers and champagne were delivered to the house by well-wishers.

Last night Mrs Maxwell said that there would be no special celebration, just a large family meal.



Pandora Maxwell and Teddy, 10. He would ask if his father was coming home

## Parents asked to pay exam bill

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SIXTH-FORM college where costs are rising faster than income has asked parents to contribute to examination fees. Long Road Sixth-Form College in Cambridge said it had been forced to make the request to meet its annual £100,000 examination bill.

With 1,500 pupils taking GCSEs or A levels, at an average cost of £120 a head, the college said that success had attracted more pupils without an equivalent rise in funds. Last year the number of students increased by 15 per cent when funding increased by less than 10 per cent. This year the figures are 7 and 1 per cent.

Madeleine Craft, the principal, said: "It's a direct consequence of the Government squeezing the public sector service. While I recognise the need to be efficient and to scrutinise all areas of expenditure, what we are looking at now is cuts which have the potential to damage the expectations of the students."

"Of course students will be allowed to sit exams irrespective of whether their parents have made a contribution. It is entirely voluntary and no records will be kept. I make the point in my letter that not all parents will be able to respond and I accept that."

## Six universities plan tuition fees to overcome cuts

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIX universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cut in higher education in November's Budget, vice-chancellors' leaders said yesterday.

Professor Gareth Roberts, the vice-chancellors' chairman, said that up to 20 more universities were likely to follow in 1998, in effect creating a two-tier higher education system.

"That is the very last thing that we want but I think it is inevitable unless there is some amelioration of cuts in the Budget."

The vice-chancellors, meeting in Sheffield, drew back from longer-term plans for a national system of fees and larger student loans. They agreed to press for more money from Government and employers before setting the level of student contributions.

Professor Roberts said: "There will be a need for more money from the public purse, more money from employers, who are the beneficiaries of graduates' training, and we do believe that students will have to contribute not just to maintenance but also a proportion of their tuition costs."

There is to be a joint study with the National Union of Students to agree the size of the shortfall in university funding. An extended meeting

has been scheduled for December, however, to co-ordinate the universities' response to a Budget Settlement which vice-chancellors expect to be tough on higher education. Among the options will be entrance fees and reductions in student numbers.

Professor Roberts said he expected six universities to introduce fees immediately if last year's 5 per cent cuts were not restored. He declined to name them, but said they would be among the most popular. The London School of Economics is to consider the introduction of fees in November and Birmingham universities have carried out preliminary studies. Oxford and Cambridge have refused to rule out charging, but are not expected to be among the six pioneers.

Douglas Trainor, the NUS president, said student unions would take action at any university proposing to levy fees. Both the Conservatives and Labour oppose tuition fees, although they expect Sir Ron Dearing's review to pave the way for students to pay for their own maintenance. The vice-chancellors made a submission to Sir Ron's review which called for expansion in higher education.

Education, pages 35 and 36

## Families face good behaviour contract

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

HEADTEACHERS are to be given legal powers to turn down a pupil for their school if parents refuse to sign a contract promising to ensure the child's good behaviour. Ministers are also considering whether legal sanctions should be drawn up to use against parents if they breach the terms of the contract.

The new law to allow heads to use school-parent contracts as part of their admissions criteria is to be included in the new Education Bill planned for

radical step is part of a package of measures to improve discipline in schools but it will also set out legally the need for parents to retain control of their children and to supervise their schoolwork and behaviour. The tough approach was outlined yesterday in the Government's White Paper on the Citizen's Charter.

Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, wants every school in the country to introduce contracts with parents. These contracts — "home-school partnerships" in official jargon — have become a familiar innovation in many schools during the past four to five years. Until now only headteachers of over-16s

parents' attitude to school contracts into account when deciding whether to offer a place to a child.

Among other initiatives to improve public services launched yesterday by Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, were publication of data to show the effectiveness of different hospital treatments; new targets to prevent shoplifting and car thefts; a smart-card for use on London Underground trains and buses; 80 new help-points and more closed-circuit television cameras at London tube stations; boards indicating bus waiting times at 4,500 bus stops in London; free computer discs from the Inland Revenue to help with

## Maxwell hails a 'victory for humanity'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

KEVIN MAXWELL told yesterday of his relief after five years in which the threat of legal action hung over him.

Sitting under a Hogarth portrait of St Paul in chains pleading before the Roman Governor Felix, he betrayed little emotion but insisted that he could not have got through the "unending pressurised series of litigations" without his wife and his brother.

"Without the support of my wife and my family, and those many friends who stood by me, and without the support of my brother, I would not have survived," he told a press conference minutes after the hearing ended.

In court he had shown barely a flicker of a smile when, with the first words of a 50-minute ruling, Mr Justice Buckley declared that he would not allow the proceedings to continue. Ian Maxwell, a defendant in the first but not the proposed second trial, immediately leaned over and clutched his brother's arm.

Outside, on the steps of the High Court, Kevin emerged arm in arm with his brother to describe the judge's decision as "a hell of a moment". Asked for his immediate feelings he said: "I am immensely relieved by the judge's decision. It is a victory for common sense and a victory for humanity."

"My other reaction is just immense relief that the jury's decision in the first trial and the acquittal of all the defendants now counts for something. For the first time in eight months the verdict now stands. We are innocent men. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight."

The worst moment of the five years, he said later, was on January 26 this year when the Serious Fraud Office announced its decision to proceed with a second trial. He said that he had never flinched from the first prosecution, knowing that it was inevitable after the collapse of his father's media empire with £400 million missing from the

pension funds. "But it is hard to explain the hammer blow on January 26 when, seven days after the unanimous verdict of the jury, the decision was taken to go on."

"At that moment I certainly felt persecuted, but today I am just relieved and I do not have any sense of persecution now. I do not want to throw any bricks at anybody, I am just so glad it is over."

He dismissed any prospect of legal action for compensation, saying that he had no intention of returning to court. He said he had no immediate thoughts for his business future, as he was still too numb to take in the judge's decision and wanted only to return home.

He said that it had been a

**• The verdict now stands. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight**

difficult decision to ask his wife, a private person with no involvement in the companies, to give evidence. "I am immensely grateful to her for her courage and sharing with the judge and the court her views on what happened."

"As the judge said, it really was moving. She is a very genuine person and she gave evidence in a typical Pandora way," he said.

His views on his father were more ambiguous. He said he still believed that Robert Maxwell had drowned accidentally, and did not blame him for the troubles that befall his sons. But he added: "I think it will be many years before I resolve in my own mind the questions I have got and the questions about our relationship."

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Smith, Susan, Thomson, Jane, Gregory and John McNamee,

## 'Raffles' blackmailer tells court that Lord Lucan is dead

By JOANNA BALL

A SELF-CONFESSED thief who claims to be a former friend of the Earl of Lucan told the Old Bailey yesterday that the missing peer was dead. Sacheverell De Houghton, 58, who says that he was at Oxford with Lucan, was stopped by his barrister before he could elaborate.

De Houghton made the claim during his trial for planning to kidnap a wealthy businessman, torture him into paying a £20 million ransom then kill him with

heroin. In evidence he has described himself as a modern-day Raffles involved in 33 years of crime.

Lucan disappeared in 1974 after his children's nanny was beaten to death. De Houghton, who also claims to have been a friend of the zoo owner John Aspinall in the 1960s, said: "I learnt to play poker from the late Lord Lucan. You'll notice I said 'late'... He was about to explain when Ray Amot, QC, interrupted, saying: "I don't think we ought to pursue that matter."

The exchange came during a

morning of evidence from De Houghton, a fine art thief and convicted blackmailer who claims to have been a Foreign Office high-flyer who turned to crime to pay gambling debts from nights out with Lucan. De Houghton denies conspiring with a co-defendant, Everton Morrison, 30, to kidnap and murder, and inciting him to kidnap and murder.

Yesterday De Houghton claimed that the whole episode had been a fantasy concocted to interest a prison hardman known as Mr A.

He was stringing along Mr A so that he could get protection in jail, and possibly organise an escape.

"In prison, a peaceful little trout like myself tries to swim under the fins of the biggest shark he can find," he said. "At this time Mr A was the biggest shark around. None of the trout would come anywhere near me because of Mr A."

He added: "To put an intelligent man like myself in a rat cage like Whitemoor Prison is a terrible punishment. The only things that kept me going were my love of

classical music, particularly Bach, my Catholic faith and the visits of my aunt Muriel."

The jury was told that the alleged plot was a fantasy intended to persuade the police to recommend him for early parole in exchange for information, or to trick Mr A into arranging his escape.

The prosecution says that, through Morrison, De Houghton recruited an undercover police officer to help to kidnap the millionaire. Asked about his relationship with the officer, De Houghton said:

"I thought he was a policeman, or more likely from the security services, MI5 or MI6... I didn't know who he was, so I deliberately told him to lead of old rubbish."

He added: "I am incapable of contemplating murder as I am a Catholic and I take the rules of the Church seriously. It was foolish of me but you can't imprison me for merely acting foolish. It's all Monty Python's flying conspiracy. I'd have a bloody good laugh about it if it weren't so serious."

The trial continues.

**Former policeman jailed for using girl as sex toy**

By A SIFT REPORTER

A FORMER community policeman who raped a 12-year-old girl and used her as "a sexual toy" was jailed for ten years yesterday.

The girl told Shrewsbury Crown Court that Peter Sharman, 40, of Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, had touched her on many occasions and had raped her several times. She did not tell her parents because she was scared of what Sharman might do.

The girl's mother, in tears in the witness box, said she believed her daughter did not tell her about the abuse because she thought it would upset her. Finally, when the daughter described what had been going on she went to the police.

Sharman was also given concurrent lesser sentences after being found guilty on six charges of attempted rape, gross indecency and indecent assault on the same girl.

After sentencing Sharman, an ex-paratrooper and divorced father of three, Judge Mander said: "It is an appalling case. It is quite obvious that you quite deliberately and wickedly overbore this sad young girl, who became your sexual toy, so that she did not know right from wrong. Anyone who over a long period uses a child, ending up raping her, deserves no sympathy, no mercy, no consideration, no understanding."

Sharman had denied seven charges, but the jury of three men and nine women were out for less than two hours before finding him guilty.

The court was told that Sharman had joined the Parachute Regiment as a teenager and served with them for ten years. He joined North Wales police in 1975 and ended as a community policeman. He remained in the Territorial Army and as a reservist volunteered for work as a medic during the Gulf War.

Sharman received a commendation for saving a young girl from drowning in the River Cefnog in 1989. He pulled the 11-year-old girl to safety when she fell into the river while playing with friends.

## Prince warns over hidden costs of intensive farming

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales said last night that intensive agriculture could be undermining the health of the nation. He said that the hidden costs of intensive farming would burden future generations financially, and nutritional deficiencies in intensively produced food might rob children of intelligence.

In a lecture to the Soil Association, the champions of the organic farming methods which the Prince uses at Highgrove, he claimed that intensive farming had never provided cheap food because its real costs had never been taken into account. "We have been paying twice," he said, "not only to subsidise intensive farming through taxes, but to restore, partially, the damage that sort of farming creates."

The Prince cited government estimates that "mad cow" disease will have cost taxpayers £1.4 billion by the end of this year in slaughter, compensation and related costs. "The losses are all too real," he said. "Degraded environmental capital is not something one can easily reinstate. We have burdened ourselves and our children with the task of rebuilding what we have destroyed. I fear it may take them most of their lifetimes to do so. And the cost, both for us and for them, will be immense."

Picturing a world of "lost biodiversity... ploughed up pastures... impoverished ar-

able acres... huge reductions in the populations of birds such as skylarks and song thrush, and of many of our wild flowers... polluted watercourses... depleted and eroded topsoil", he referred to the additional cost of the huge but unquantifiable loss of landscape quality, wildlife and cultural diversity which reduces our genetic resources, depresses the human spirit and makes all our lives less interesting and less fulfilling.

The Prince said that there might be as yet unrealised long-term nutritional costs, because the nutritional deficiencies in intensively produced food could undermine the health and intelligence of future generations. He cited an article in the magazine *New Scientist* which reported that

The Prince was delivering the 1997 Lady Eve Balfour Memorial Lecture at the Banqueting Hall in London. Lady Eve was a Suffolk farmer and a founding member of the Soil Association, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The National Farmers' Union gave a mixed response to the speech, saying he was highlighting the current debate but was being pessimistic. "The Prince's view is a gloomy one which would not be recognisable to most farmers, who take a great pride in their work their products and their economic welfare and environmental achievements."

The Prince with his farm manager at Highgrove



The actress and the bishop were innocently matched when Jo Collins returned to her London school yesterday with the Right Rev Richard Holland (Church of England) School at Regent's Park. She told the

## London is a haven for rare species

By NICK NUTTALL

LONDON is emerging as one of the richest places in Britain for wildlife, as intensive agriculture, development and neglect push many species in the countryside to the brink.

Experts, who yesterday launched a conservation strategy for the capital backed by the Government, councils and charities, said that the range of plants and animals in London was proving remarkable.

Surveys indicated that many rare species on the decline elsewhere, including the water vole, dormouse, marsh warbler and green-winged orchid, were surviving in London. Some sites in the capital deserved as much protection as the Sussex Downs or the Fens, it was said.

David Bevan, a conservation officer with the London Borough of Haringey, said

the capital's railway sidings, commons, gardens and parks had become havens for com-

mon but declining species, as well as rare ones. "We have the combination of relic native species, which have miraculously hung on in there, and introduced species that have also thrived." Native bee orchids could be found along the North Circular, and rare green-winged orchids survived at Croydon in south London.

Surveys by groups such as the London Wildlife Trust and English Nature have pinpointed a range of en-

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# Modern art comes of age as galleries swap works

BY DALVA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries.

They decreed yesterday that 1900 marks the divide between where the National's collection should end and the Tate's modern art should begin. The two galleries will swap Monets, Matisse, Picasso and Pissarros that were painted on either side of the year.

The last such attempt to rationalise the collections was in 1927, when 1870 — the age of Impressionism and the first of the modern movements — was fixed as the beginning of the modern era.

Sixty paintings from the "national collections of foreign art" will be exchanged for an experimental period of four years, starting next spring.

Moving 20th-century art



*Farms near Auvers*, painted by Van Gogh in 1890, is on its way from the Tate to the National Gallery in exchange for 20th-century pictures

from the National and 19th-century art from the Tate means that Picasso's Cubist *Fruit Dish, Bottle and Violin*, as a 1914 work, will go to the Tate in return for works such as Van Gogh's *Farms near Auvers* of 1890. Juxtaposing images by the same artist in the same gallery gives a greater understanding of them than if they are split up: Seurat's *Bathers* at the National will be reunited with a study for it from the Tate.

However, there are complications with artists who worked in both centuries. Monet, for example, will be shared by the two galleries, with later images that bear a more abstract quality viewed as "very much of the 20th century" and therefore suitable for the Tate. Whereas his *Woman Seated on a Bench*, of

1874, will hang at the National, his *Water-lilies* of 1916 will be at the Tate. Cézanne, although often described as the father of modern art, will also be seen at both galleries.

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, said: "It seems to us very important that the collections of this country are where the public expect them to be. When the

pictures from the Tate are brought together with the National Gallery's existing holdings, the British public will be able for the first time to see the full extent of the nation's 19th-century French collections and to discover how very rich they are."

Long since the Tate opened in 1897, in response to an urgent need for a national

gallery of British art, it has become responsible for British art from the 16th century and international modern art. It was as recently as 1955 that it was made independent from the National Gallery. Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, said: "This is a sign of real co-operation between two sister institutions."

He added: "There was cer-

tainly no concern about questions of value, but only thinking in terms of making the best use of the national collection for the public at large."

The directors said that the decision to create the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Banksy had provided a fresh opportunity to reassess the distribution of works. The

agreement clarified their collecting responsibilities.

The 1900 divide is not entirely strict. The Tate will continue to keep its British collection, including pre-1900 Constables and Turners. Loans and committed bequests will be unaffected. Discussions are under way with other institutions and the exchanges could extend to collections overseas.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Post strikes suspended by union

Postal strikes due today and Sunday evening have been called off after union leaders decided to re-ballot workers on whether to continue their four-month industrial action. Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, said the dispute had become embroiled in a row about whether workers should be balloted on a package to improve pay and hours that included a proposal on team working. The executive had decided unanimously to call off strikes and seek a fresh mandate for industrial action.

### Drugs charge

Police investigating the death of a head boy at a nightclub in Plymouth have charged a 39-year-old woman with supplying amphetamine sulphate. Richard Mulkerrins, 17, died on Tuesday after collapsing at the club. Two youths, aged 17 and 18, were also arrested but have been released.

### Ship safety alert

Shipping companies were urged to review lifeboat safety yesterday after a government investigation into a cross-channel ferry accident. Sixteen crew members were pitched into the sea during emergency drill on the P & O *Pride of Hampshire* in Cherbourg in 1994.

### Pond accident

A child was found dead after his mother turned her back for less than a minute, an inquest at Leeds was told. Jordan Newton, 3, fell in a garden pond as his mother, Rachel, 20, of Seacroft, Leeds, took a 39-second telephone call. Verdict: accidental death.

### Body unnoticed

The body of a retired car mechanic lay in his garage for ten months before it was noticed he was missing, an inquest was told. Henry Furse, 59, was found dead in his car at Red Lodge, Suffolk, near his son's home, in August. Verdict: suicide.

### Change for £50

Today is the last day that the old-style £50 notes, featuring Sir Christopher Wren, are legal tender. Most banks will accept them for a limited period and the Bank of England indefinitely. Their replacement has a more complex design.

### Talked out

A budgerigar said to be the most talented in Britain has died. Candy spoke five languages, including Russian. Its owner, Eileen Trapnell, 49, of Pill, Somerset, had just taught it to sing *The Lord is My Shepherd*. She said: "I am absolutely distraught."

## Inquiry call after death at barracks

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE Army was urged yesterday to examine weapons controls within barracks after an inquest was told that a man died after a prank.

Leonard Coyle, the Coroner for Newcastle upon Tyne, said he was astounded by the evidence given during an inquest into the death of Fusilier Gary Riches, 24, of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who was shot in the head while playing with a loaded SA80 rifle at an army base in Bosnia last October.

The round also struck Edward Beddoes, a fellow fusilier involved in the horseplay. Mr Coyle had considered a verdict of unlawful killing on the ground of gross negligence or recklessness, but ruled it out because of confusion over who had pressed the trigger. The weapon had gone off as Fusilier Beddoes leaned from his bunk on to Fusilier Riches, who was holding the rifle.

The inquest had been told that, the previous day, Fusilier Riches's gun was taken from him after he pointed the loaded weapon at other troops while messing about, and that on the night of the shooting the soldiers had drunk more beer than they were permitted. Recording an open verdict, Mr Coyle said: "There are a number of disturbing matters which should be exercised in the minds of the MoD."

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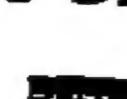
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# Women in twenties abandon Pill for fear of side-effects

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN in their late twenties are abandoning the contraceptive pill apparently because of fears about side-effects, experts said yesterday.

The proportion of women aged 25 to 29 taking the Pill had fallen by more than a fifth since 1993, from 45 to 35 per cent, according to a survey.

However, the Pill was increasingly popular among teenagers and those over 30.

Among women aged 35 to 44, Pill use had increased since 1993 from 11 to 16 per cent.

The survey is the fifth in a series examining women's attitudes to contraception and sex, undertaken by NOP for the Pill manufacturer Schering Health Care, during the past 13 years. Overall, the survey of 1,000 women showed the proportion of sexually active women not using any method of contraception had increased from 500,000 in 1993 to 850,000. Among teenagers aged 16 to 19, an estimated 150,000 sexually active young women were at risk of unwanted pregnancy compared with 90,000 three years ago.

Last year's scare, in which seven brands of low-dose contraceptive pill were linked with an increased risk of blood clots, triggered an initial 14 per cent fall in overall use but this had since stabilised at a

More women were delaying

net 4 per cent drop, the survey showed. Anne Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, said campaigns to reduce teenage pregnancies had increased Pill use in the age group but that women in their twenties tended to be more concerned about side-effects.

Dr David Paintin, chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said the late twenties were the peak age for childbearing and many women would have stopped the Pill in order to start a family. However, this did not explain the sudden fall in popularity of the Pill in the age group since 1993. "Maybe their anxiety has been raised," he said.

In the over-30s, worries about side-effects appeared to have given way to a more sober assessment of the risks and benefits. Women who were combining a job with being a parent appreciated the control the Pill gave over their periods, limiting bleeding and pre-menstrual tension, Dr Paintin said.

"In the over-35s the risks of the Pill race up even in non-smokers but the increase in the chance of thromboses and breast cancer may be balanced by reductions in ovarian and endometrial cancer," he said.

More women were delaying

childbirth, and so were continuing with the Pill into their thirties rather than opting for a permanent form of contraception such as sterilisation or their partner having a vasectomy, and doctors were easier to agree to longer use of the Pill.

Among teenagers there were diverging trends, with more using the Pill and more taking no precautions at all. In the 16-to-19 age group, Pill use had increased from 40 to 43 per cent since 1993. Almost one in six of 16 to 24-year-olds were using the combined protection of the Pill and a sheath, apparently because of fear of infection.

However, almost one in ten 16 to 19-year-olds used no protection. Many wrongly believed that the risks of using the Pill were higher than the risks of having a baby. Figures show that the risk of dying in childbirth is ten times higher than from the Pill.

Simon and Manuela Jeans on their wedding day

## Bedside farewell for family of soldier killed by Croat mob

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE family of the soldier who died after being attacked by a mob in Croatia spoke yesterday about their final moments with him. Private Simon Jeans's German wife, Manuela, said she was grateful that she had had the opportunity to say goodbye to her husband in a military hospital in Split.

Mr Jeans, 23, said that his final words had been about her and their two-year-old son. "He said he loved me and he would always love me. He said 'Take care of yourself and Jason.' He knew he was going to die."

Private Jeans, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was first taken to the



Private Jeans, pictured in Split, where he served with 14 Transport Squadron

Implementation Force in Sarajevo, died in Frimley Park Military Hospital after his skull was fractured when he was beaten with baseball bats and iron clubs. He had been in a bar in Split with four other soldiers on Sunday when they were asked to leave, then set upon by about 30 locals.

His brother, Gavin, 19, said all the family had managed to gather at Private Jeans's bedside before he died.

"My sister Davina was the last to get there. He waited for her to see him and after that he was gone."

Private Jeans had been in Bosnia

Croatians were waiting for them with iron bars. We believe Simon was trying to help one of his friends when the Croatians went past on a moped. One of them whacked him with a bar."

Mrs Bennett added: "There were three things he always wanted. He wanted to go into the Army, he wanted to get married and he wanted a son. He had all those three things. He had a good life. I never regretted him going into the Army."

Private Jeans had been in Bosnia since Christmas and had served in the Gulf War. He is to be buried with full military honours.

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## Chocolate joins wine on health food list

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHOCOLATE may be a vital ingredient in fighting heart disease, and the darker the confectionery the better, researchers in America claim.

In a study that will bring pleasure to cocoa addicts, confectioners and dentists, the winning recipe for good health would be to combine chocolate intake with red wine. Dr Andrew Waterhouse and researchers from California University found that chocolate contains significant levels of phenol, which prevents oxidation of a specific

density lipoproteins is known to be linked to furring of the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks. A 41-gram piece of milk chocolate was found to contain 205mg of phenol, compared with 210mg in a glass of red wine. Two tablespoons of cocoa had 146mg of phenol. Dark chocolate had more phenol than milk chocolate, the researchers, writing in the *The Lancet*, said.

A spokesman for Cadbury's said: "We've long said there's nothing wrong with chocolate and it can be beneficial as part of a balanced diet. It has many other ingredients that are good for you, such as calcium."



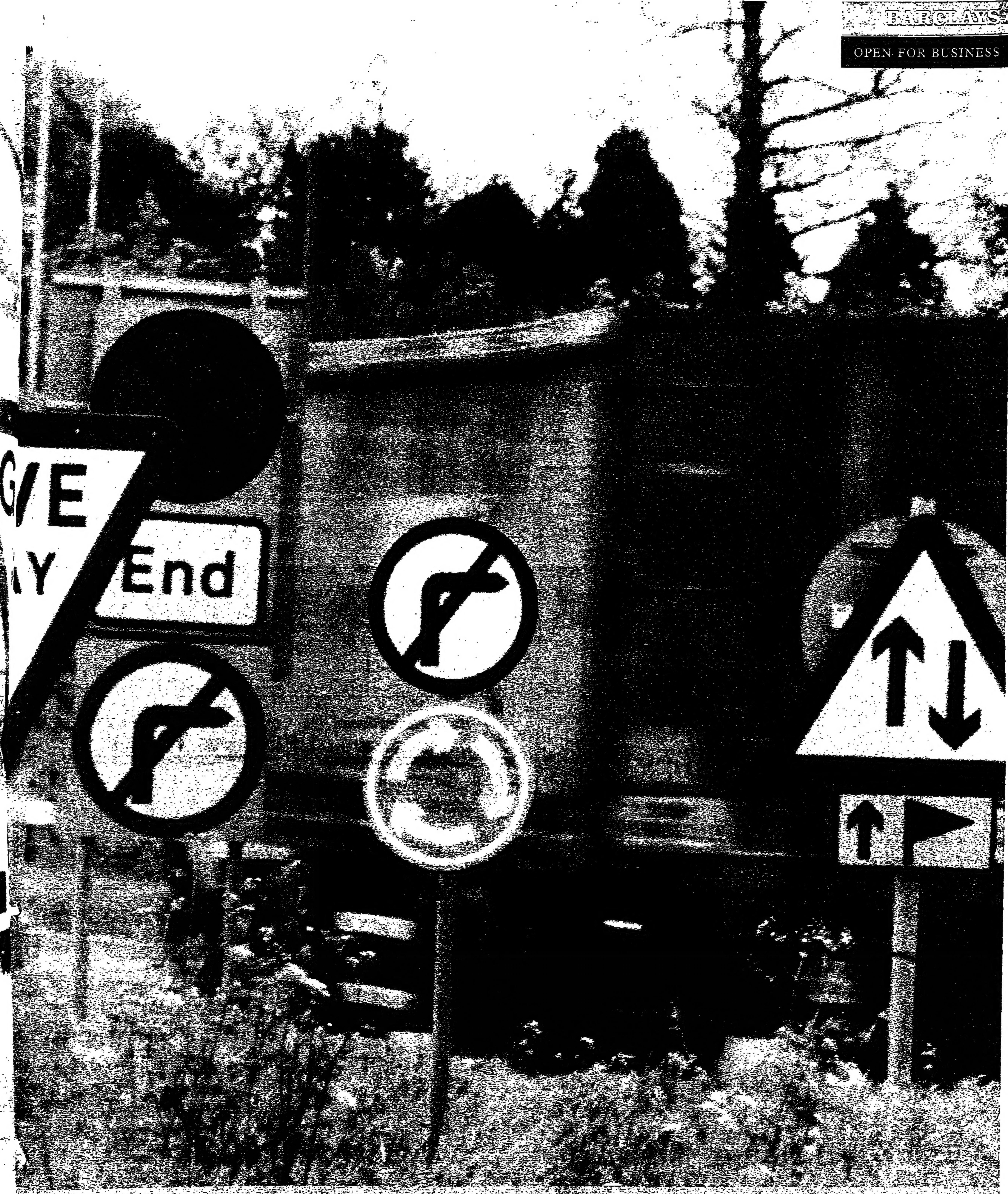
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182. *Geotrichum candidum* (L.) Cohn

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10. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Fig. 10)

Grandeeshock Tories with the timing of their riposte to the sceptics' noisy campaign

# How breakfast plotters hatched Euro fightback

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE plot by the six Tory elder statesmen publicly to challenge John Major over Europe was hatched over breakfast two months ago in a Westminster hotel.

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, and Lord Howe of Aberavon planned the rebuke to the "Little Englanders" when they met at St Ermin's Hotel, a short walk from Parliament. The Government's policy of non-cooperation over Europe on BSE, and concessions to the Tory Right in the foreign affairs White Paper dominated the discussion over poached eggs and coffee.

Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, decided that the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's Zurich speech was the ideal moment to launch a concerted fightback. Crucially, the decision was taken long

before the six elder statesmen knew that Malcolm Rifkind was going to make a speech in Zurich on the same day.

The decision was the signal for supporters in an influential network of pro-European organisations to plan a long-awaited fightback against the Euro-sceptics.

Downing Street, which had been alerted that the pro-Europeans were planning to commemorate the Zurich speech, saw the text of the letter only late yesterday morning. John Major and Brian Mawhinney, contrary to their public utterances of support, were aghast at the timing, with the Tory conference looming.

Douglas Hurd, who speaks regularly to Sir Leon and Lord Howe, readily consented to become publicly associated with the fightback. He had already privately expressed his frustration at the failure of members of the Cabinet, and the Prime Minister, to take on

the Euro-sceptics. The final straw for Mr Hurd and Lord Howe came when they appeared on a rare public platform together in July to support the publication by a Tory MP of a pro-European pamphlet, *Time to return to European Sanity*. When it received scant publicity the die was cast.

Two weeks ago a letter appeared in the *Financial Times* from 15 business supporters of the single currency. It was no coincidence. The forum of pro-European organisations, supported by the six statesmen, helped to orchestrate the letter. It was part of a deliberate attempt to galvanise pro-European opinion in the Tory party against the Euro-sceptics, who Sir Leon and his friends believed were winning the argument because they made more noise.

The letter to *The Independent* was drafted in London by Maurice Fraser, a former political adviser to Lord Howe

Letters, page 19



Sir Edward Heath, one of the signatories, at his home in Salisbury yesterday

## Counter-attack gives Major little room to manoeuvre

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government is pursuing a policy of studied ambiguity on Europe: it — closer integration or monetary union — won't happen and, even if it does, it won't be for a very long time. Both assumptions are dubious, but John Major and Malcolm Rifkind cannot contemplate any alternative without making the Tory party look even less united than it is anyway.

Yesterday's blast from the St Ermin's Hotel Six is essentially a defensive operation. As Douglas Hurd suggested yesterday, it is a belated expression of frustration that the sceptics have been making the running for too long. The pro-Europeans have now agreed a clear strategy for fighting back.

But hardly any — and certainly not Kenneth Clarke — really believe that a re-elected Conservative Government would take Britain into a single currency in the next Parliament. It would split any Tory Cabinet. The pro-Europeans' aim is to prevent the party shifting too far in a

sideline.

Mr Major is, however, under strong pressure from the sceptics to rule out participation in the next parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

in the next parliament. And many Tory MPs less committed to the sceptic cause see firm opposition to monetary union as a way of differentiating the Tories from Labour on what can be presented in a populist "save our pound" campaign.

Personally Mr Major doubts whether monetary union can work and does not believe any Tory Government would take sterling in. But he is constrained by Mr Clarke, with the crucial support of Cabinet of Michael Heseltine.

Next month's party conference is unlikely to help. Both sides will hold well-publicised fringe meetings. In the background will be the one day mini-summit in Dublin, which the Government is trying to downgrade to ensure its options remain open. By next spring, monetary union may look a probability, rather than a possibility, so it will be harder either for Mr Major, or for Tony Blair, to prevaricate.

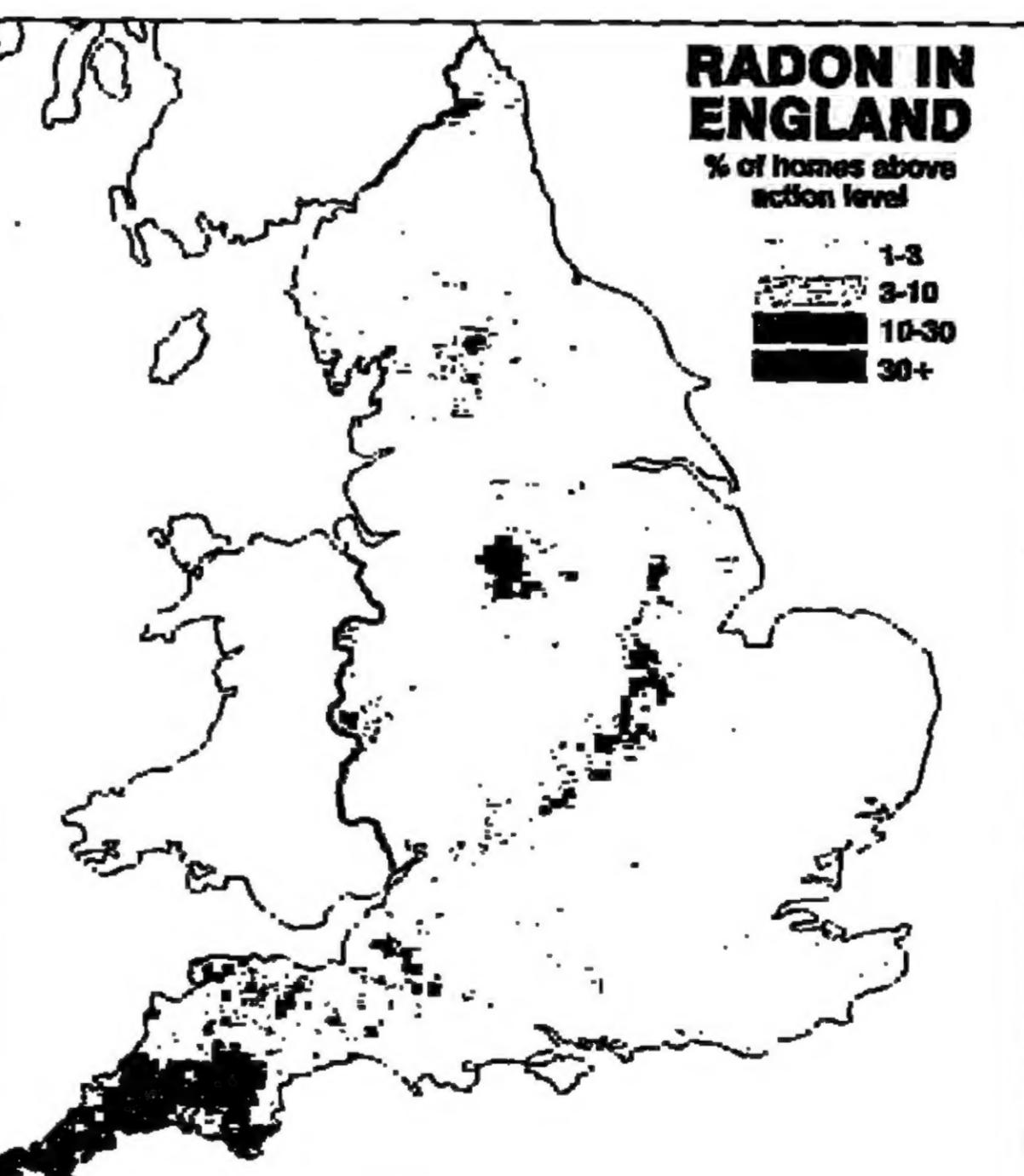
"There has never been such a rich series of opportunities for Britain to take the lead in world affairs," he said. "We cannot afford to fumble them." Mr Cook used a section of his speech to praise Tony Blair's leadership and his modernisation of the party in what was seen as a clear attempt to build bridges after the wrangles last week.

## Daily dose of radiation 'beneficial'

DAILY doses of nuclear radiation should be part of a healthy lifestyle, a nuclear safety expert has said.

John Graham, vice-president of British Nuclear Fuels' US subsidiary, is quoted in *Professional Engineering*, the business magazine of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, as saying there was now "reasonable to good" evidence that low-level radiation was beneficial. Studies on rats in Japan showed that animals given low-level radiation which were then exposed to a high dose were less susceptible to cancers than rats which had not had the low-level doses, Mr Graham told a meeting of the Uranium Institute. "People predisposed to cancer should be given radiation throughout their lives," Mr Graham said.

## Map shows spread of radon



By NIGEL HAWKES

A RADON atlas of England published today shows that contamination with the radioactive gas is more widespread than previously thought.

Based on tests in more than 240,000 homes, the atlas shows that there are pockets of the gas in many counties. The atlas shows what proportion of properties per 5km sq contain a concentration of radon above the level at which measures should be taken to reduce exposure.

The National Radiological Protection Board, which produced the new maps, sets an action level of 200 becquerels per cubic metre. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, more than 25 per cent of the properties exceed this level and in Devon more than 7 per cent do. Radon is produced in the ground by the decay of uranium and seeps into houses through the foundations.

## Buffalo roam the shelves again

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

er. said: "I wouldn't buy it myself. I think it's more for socialites. For people sitting round a dinner table and talking about the fact they're eating buffalo."

Sainsbury's is offering rib-eye steaks of Canadian buffalo at £2.40 a kilogram (£10.90 a lb) and sirloin at £32 a kg (£14.54 a lb), providing recipe leaflets in stores where the meat is sold to encourage those who are uncertain how the meat, officially classed as game, should be cooked.

The sirloin buffalo steak

sells at £14.49 per pound, compared to Aberdeen Angus sirloin at £6.29 a lb. The Cromwell Road branch in Kensington, London, which also sells ostrich, said that interest had been slight.

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The sirloin buffalo steak

Teenagers who chanted 'white bastard' as they stamped on man's head are given long sentences

## Race attack left victim in coma

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THREE black teenagers left a young man in a coma after stamping on his head while chanting 'white bastard', a court was told yesterday. The judge jailed them for a total of almost 35 years and told them that they had behaved 'like a pack of wild animals'.

Doctors feared that Gareth Wilshaw would be left in a permanent vegetative state after he was punched to the ground and kicked in the head up to 30 times. Danau Drummond, Marlon Howell and Gary Hutchinson, all 18, shouted racist abuse as they repeatedly stamped on Mr Wilshaw while he lay motionless. Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Mr Wilshaw, 24, who was in a coma for three months, suffered brain damage and had still not recovered sufficiently to give evidence against his attackers. His brother Robert, 36, said after the sentence: 'When they come out they will be able to walk. Gary may never walk again.'

Mr Wilshaw, a car mechanic, was the main victim of a string of unprovoked attacks led by Drummond, who was



Drummond, left, Hutchinson, centre, and Howell behaved 'like wild animals'

enraged at being thrown out of a nightclub on December 23 last year. Philip Ellis, who saw the assault, told the court: 'It was disgusting. It wasn't just kicking, it was stamping on his head. I could hear them shouting "white bastard". It was the longest minute I have ever known. My natural instinct was to go and help, but my sense told me not to, otherwise I would probably have been with him now.'

The court was told that the youths were later spotted by a security guard who heard one boast: 'Did you see the way I did him?' as he mimed kicking somebody. The gang was

responsible for three other attacks the same night as Drummond, who lost a ring when he was thrown out of the club, vented his anger on anyone he came across. Howell later told police: 'He said his ring was worth a lot of money, so somebody would have to pay.'

The attack on Mr Wilshaw was so savage that when his parents, Ron and Yvonne, first saw him in hospital he still had the imprint of a shoe over one eye. He is expected to remain in hospital at least until next month. He still has difficulties with his speech.

Drummond, of Spalding, was sentenced to ten years in a young offenders' institution after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He was given a further 30 months, to run consecutively, after admitting wounding a man in an earlier attack, leaving him needing 34 stitches.

an attendance centre for an offence of assault.

Howell, of Normanton, Derby, and Hutchinson, of Spalding, denied the charge but were convicted at the end of a trial last month. They were each given 11 years in a young offenders' institution.

Judge Dudley Bennett said: 'You three participated in an entirely, absolutely, completely unprovoked, vicious and sustained attack upon a young white youth who simply had been going out and enjoying a pre-Christmas drink. There is the plainest evidence that the attack was at least in part a racially motivated attack.'

He said that Mr Wilshaw would never recover: 'You have ruined his life forever. No sentence I pass on you can ever compensate for that.'

He said that the sentences were not only to punish the three but also to deter others.

There are far too many gangs of youths prowling through the streets in the late hours causing this kind of trouble.'

Barristers for the three said that none had set out with violence in mind that night and that they and their families would suffer for years from their actions.



Gareth Wilshaw, seen with his parents before the attack, may never walk again

## Church in Wales votes for women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 80 women deacons are to be ordained priests after the Church in Wales yesterday became the last of the four Anglican churches in the British Isles to accept them.

The two-thirds majority needed to admit women into the priesthood was achieved by one vote when clergy of the Church in Wales, meeting in Lampeter, Cardiganshire, accepted the bill after an emotional debate. The clergy had voted against change when it last came before the governing body two years ago, although it was supported then, as now, by the bishops and laity.

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, said that to continue opposition to women priests would leave Welsh Anglicans isolated and split from the rest of the church. 'We will just be a forgotten province of the Anglican Church,' he said.

After the meeting, jubilant women deacons hugged one another in celebration. The women had warned of defections to the Church of England if the Bill was defeated again. The Church in Wales first ordained women deacons in 1980, five years after the Church of England.

□ The Rev David Holloway, vicar of Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a leading evangelical, yesterday urged the Prince of Wales to renounce Camilla Parker Bowles and lead a celibate life. He said that otherwise the Prince could not become Supreme Governor of the Church.

## Rapid rise in number of cancer sufferers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people suffering from cancer is increasing sharply, figures published yesterday disclosed. Deaths from cancer have also risen.

New cases of the disease in women rose by 30 per cent between 1979 and 1991, from 83,100 to 107,900. In men new cases rose by 21 per cent from 86,200 to 104,200.

The Office of National Statistics, which published the figures, said some of the increase in new cases was due to the ageing of the population. After allowing for this, the rise is estimated at 20 per cent among women and 10 per cent among men...

Experts say that some of this rise is due to better diagnosis and improved registration but, even allowing for these, there was a real increase.

The figures demonstrate that despite millions spent on research that has yielded significant advances in the laboratory, these have not been translated into effective treatments. And although spectacular progress has been made against certain cancers, such as childhood leukaemia and testicular tumours, little success has been achieved against common forms such as lung and bowel cancer.

The figures show that more than half of all cancers occurred in those aged 65 to 79. Only 6 per cent of cancers in men and 9 per cent in women occurred in those under 45. There were 1,200 cancers in children under 15, one third of them leukaemia.

## BT prepares to halt calls to prostitutes

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BT HAS sent its first 67 warning letters to prostitutes advertising their services in public telephone boxes. Those who ignore the warnings risk having all incoming calls to their numbers blocked by the end of the month.

BT announced its clean-up of telephone boxes last month. In the past three weeks security guards have collected 20,000 prostitutes' cards from kiosks in Westminster City Council's area. The telephone numbers have been fed into a computer and warning letters sent to the most frequent ones.

'Some totally different cards have got the same telephone number,' BT said. 'The method we are using enables us to pinpoint the addresses which are most in use by the prostitutes.'

'Carders', who claim to

earn up to £100 a day placing the numbers in telephone boxes, have ignored warnings that lines will be blocked. Council cleaners are still removing up to 150,000 cards a week from the 700 boxes in the council area.

If any of the 67 addresses sent a warning appear on newly distributed cards, the computer will spot them. A second warning will be sent next week. If that is ignored, incoming calls will be blocked.

An earlier attempt to block lines was thwarted by Ofcom, which upheld a complaint from a prostitute that the move was illegal. The new method has been worked out with legal advice, although a London prostitutes' group has threatened to challenge BT in the courts if lines are blocked.

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# Seoul troops kill seven on bungled spy raid by North

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND NICHOLAS LONG IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA denounced a bungled infiltration attempt as "military provocation" yesterday as its troops shot dead seven North Koreans on the second day of a manhunt that has dramatised the enduring Cold War hostility between the two neighbours.

"This is not a simple spy case: I regard it as a kind of military provocation," President Kim Young Sam told a Cabinet meeting.

Tension escalated after the killings when a North Korean submarine crewman revealed under interrogation that his unit had completed a spying mission against a South Korean airfield at Kangnung on the eastern coast. He said it was the fourth mission the spy submarine had undertaken since the beginning of September.

Those killed yesterday were cut down by automatic fire as they crouched by a stream to drink, according to military sources in Kangnung. They were dressed in blue jeans and sneakers made in South Korea.

The killings brought to 18 the number of North Koreans who have died since their submarine ran aground off Kangnung on Wednesday. Last night thousands of troops

and police with sniffer dogs continued to comb thickly wooded mountains near the coast in the hope of tracking down another five infiltrators who came ashore from the submarine.

Seoul security forces believe survivors of the unit are fleeing through the mountains towards the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas, about 50 miles from where the submarine ran aground. But the total number of intruders is still unclear.

The captive North Korean is reported to have told military interrogators that a total of 25 people were on board the submarine, rather than 20 as he said initially.

The man, Lee Kwang Su, 31, was also reported by the South Korean media to have disclosed that the mission was aimed at conducting reconnaissance on South Korean naval facilities and the strategic airport at Kangnung. General Shin Kang Kil, briefing reporters, said the captive had refused to discuss his mission until he began to talk under the influence of alcohol.

"He at first refused to answer, saying he feared for the safety of family members in the North," said General Shin. "But after drinking four bot-

ties of soju (Korean whiskey) his tongue loosened."

A former North Korean agent, Lee Won Bok, who defected previously, was quoted yesterday as saying that the North had at least 1,000 infiltration agents, including all-female squads.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said the North typically uses small teams of trained agents for espionage operations and were surprised by the size of the latest contingent. It was unclear how many of the North Koreans were agents or commanders and how many were crew members on the submarine, which remained stranded on a coastal reef yesterday.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said ten of the North Koreans found dead on Wednesday may have been shot by their leader to avoid capture once they realised the mission had failed. The eleventh man then took his own life.

Incursions by North Korean agents and commandos are nothing new, but this is the most serious incident in recent years, deepening the antagonism between the two Koreas felt since the Korean War ended in 1953.

A thrilled Mrs Lucid, smiling broadly, referred to the *Atlantis* space shuttle as "my limousine" and made clear that she

was more than ready to exchange Mir, and the (albeit friendly) company of two Russian cosmonauts, for life on Earth. She pinched her American colleagues to make sure that she was not dreaming. She was originally scheduled to spend four months in orbit, but her stay on Mir was forcibly extended when *Atlantis* was delayed by technical problems and by bad weather. Mrs Lucid, who has had to

make do with sponge baths and dried rations since March, greeted the *Atlantis* crew members with a tray of bread and salt — a Russian expression of welcome. □ Seattle President Clinton is abandoning President Bush's initiative to put a man on Mars by 2019, it was reported last night, and instead committing Nasa to putting a robot on the red planet by 2000. (AP)

## Peking carpets sex case general

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY  
IN HONG KONG

A CHINESE general has been disciplined for making sexual advances to a woman soldier from the turbulent Muslim region of Xinjiang.

According to a Reuter report from Peking, General Qu Cong was on an official visit to North Korea when he unsuccessfully demanded sex from the woman, a Uighur from Xinjiang, a northwestern region shaken by revolt against Chinese rule since the 19th century. Official sources are tight-lipped because the affair is "very sensitive". General Qu's promotion to head the army's Art Academy has been blocked after a report ordered by President Jiang Zemin, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xinjiang, a vast region containing most of China's 20 million Muslims, is more restive than Tibet, partly because its people are linked to restive Muslims across the border in the former Soviet Union. Like Muslims elsewhere, the Uighurs' religious faith is closely associated with their fierce nationalism.

In May the official Xinjiang Daily reported a tightening of security after Uighur "splitists" killed six or seven Han Chinese and a pro-Han mullah was murdered.

Bernard Levin, page 18

Shannon Lucid greets *Atlantis* astronaut William Ready after the shuttle docked with Mir to take her home

## Spacewoman hails earthbound 'limousine'

New York: Shannon Lucid, America's marooned spacewoman, hugged and joked with Nasa astronauts who yesterday arrived to take her back home from Mir, the Russian space station where she has spent the past six months (Quentin Letts writes).

Incursions by North Korean agents and commandos are nothing new, but this is the most serious incident in recent years, deepening the antagonism between the two Koreas felt since the Korean War ended in 1953.

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## Women infuriated by Italian 'charter' for wife-beaters

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN women were infuriated yesterday after a Supreme Court ruling in Rome that it is not a crime for a jealous man to beat his wife so long as he does not make a habit of it.

The court sent back for reconsideration an eight-month prison sentence originally imposed by the Palermo Court of Appeal on Francesco Lombardo, 42, a Sicilian bricklayer, who argued that he hit and kicked his wife Anna, 40, a mother of four, "only because of jealousy" and that the attack four years ago was only an occasional episode even though she had to receive medical attention.

The Supreme Court ruled that wife-beating was a crime only if it was "planned and systematic" and if there was "a grave intention to humiliate and oppress" the woman.

The Supreme Court took into account a plea for clemency for her husband made by Signora Lombardo. "Please clear him: my husband is a good person. He only hit me during an argument in which we were both angry."

"He was a little jealous and his work was going badly. Do not condemn him because it would make our lives even more complicated," she said.

Leading feminists such as Tina Lagostena Bassi, a prominent divorce lawyer, condemned the Supreme Court ruling. "Asking the victim to demonstrate that the

malreatment is continuous is diabolical," she said. "This is why so many violent husbands remain unpunished and why we have known so many stories of deaths that were waiting to happen."

Signora Lombardo said that during their fight "one word led to another and he began to scream. At a certain point he exploded and I do not remember if he gave me a slap or a punch." She went with her mother to hospital in the Palermo suburb of Capaci where she received treatment from doctors who said she would need seven days to get well. Police following up a hospital report charged her husband and he was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison by a local court. The sentence was reduced to eight months on appeal.

Arma Pinochiaro, Minister for Equal Opportunity in the Centre-Left Government, also weighed in, saying: "Urgent measures are needed to keep a violent husband out of the home." The minister challenged the Supreme Court ruling which, she said, amounted to saying "there was no wish for oppression but 'only jealousy'". She added: "In this way, in the end one could say that there are good bruises and bad bruises, that there is violence with good intentions because there is no desire to oppress. But violence always is a crime."

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# Stumbling Dole adds to image of an old man

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE sought solace in Las Vegas yesterday after a calamitous foray into California to protest against the moral laxity of Hollywood and President Clinton.

The 73-year-old Republican fell 4ft off a stage and landed on his back. He praised the Brooklyn Dodgers, forgetting that the team had moved to Los Angeles and changed its name in 1958. He also denounced *Pulp Fiction* and the recent British film *Trainspotting*, claiming that they glorified heroin. Aides admitted he had seen neither film, and *Pulp Fiction's* director demanded an apology.

Mr Dole visited Los Angeles to continue his crusade against drugs, an issue on which he feels the baby-boomer President is vulnerable. He recalled how Mr Clinton had laughed when asked in 1992 if he would inhale marijuana given a second chance and replied: "Sure, if I could. I tried before." That, said Mr Dole, showed Mr Clinton's "moral confusion" and unfitness to lead.

Mr Dole then demanded

Hollywood "stop the commercialisation of drug abuse, stop the glorification of slow suicide", and singled out *Trainspotting* and *Pulp Fiction* as films that promoted "the romance of heroin".

*Trainspotting*, a film about young working-class heroin addicts in Edinburgh, was not a Hollywood movie but was released in America by a division of Walt Disney. The main character at one point exols heroin, but it also portrays the tragic consequences of addiction: Aids, death, violence and squalor.

Quentin Tarantino, *Pulp Fiction's* writer and director, denied that his film glorified heroin. "I've never seen a politician so consistently give opinions about issues he knows nothing about," he said. Nelson Warfield, Mr Dole's press secretary, said the candidate had read reviews of both films and argued: "You don't have to look in every trash can to know there's garbage inside."

From Los Angeles, Mr Dole flew north to a rally in the town of Chico. As he leant over



Bob Dole slips from a 4ft stage after a balustrade gave way in Chico, California, during a campaign speech. "I have fallen for Chico," he said

a balustrade around the stage to shake supporters' hands, it broke and he tumbled into a group of photographers. He was helped to his feet by Secret Service agents. He made light of the accident, joking that he had "fallen for Chico", and aides said the fact he emerged unscathed showed his toughness. But the damage was done. Every newspaper and television station had the per-

fect visual metaphor for Mr Dole's floundering campaign. His widely-reported reference to the Brooklyn Dodgers in his Los Angeles speech was another mini-disaster. It reminded voters of his age, and was the latest of a string of similar gaffes that have plagued his campaign.

He has talked of the epitaph: he wants on his tombstone. He keeps visiting graves — his

great-great-grandfather's, his parents', Richard Nixon's. He boasted of receiving a "shot in the arm" from a meeting with former President Reagan, who is 85 and slowly dying of Alzheimer's disease.

In his convention speech, Mr Dole offered himself as a bridge to the past. He has toured California's "death row" and a New Hampshire brewery that made Old Man

Ale, and would have visited a New Jersey lifejacket factory had bad weather not grounded his plane. During a visit to a small Ohio town last week he bought a pair of long johns.

The image of Mr Dole as a geriatric is unfair — he has tremendous energy — but it is taking hold. A recent poll asked 610 Americans to give a one-word description of Mr Dole and 118 said "old" —

seven times more than the next most common adjectives which were "good" and "conservative".

Two national polls yesterday put Mr Dole 13 and 17 points behind Mr Clinton. State polls put him five points behind in Florida, which has not voted for a Democrat in 20 years, and just one point ahead in Virginia, which last voted for a Democrat in 1964.

## China attacked over changes

Peking: Britain told China that plans to establish a provisional legislature in place of the current elected body when it takes over Hong Kong next year is "unjustified, unnecessary and a serious disruption".

"The great majority of people in Hong Kong want continuity and a smooth transition," said Hugh Davies, the senior British representative on the Joint Liaison Group, which is handling the transition.

## Debate curbed in Zimbabwe

Harare: The Mugabe Government used its 147-3 majority in the Zimbabwean parliament to guillotine debate on a motion of no confidence from the opposition leader, the Rev Ndabingi Sithole (Michael Hartnett writes). The motion is expected to be amended to congratulate President Mugabe on his 16-year rule.

## Gujarat to be ruled by Delhi

Delhi: President Sharma of India dismissed the government of Gujarat state and imposed federal rule after the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pushed through a confidence vote by 92 to 0 in a state legislature session marred by violence. All opposition members had been suspended by the acting Speaker, a BJP member. (Reuters)

## Reprise after 44 years on run

New York: A Brooklyn Freemason, known for his community work, has spent 44 years on the run from a Florida chain-gang (Quentin Letts writes). Eddie Brown, 64, was arrested after his past came to light but set free by a New York judge who declared him to be a changed man.

# Luckless Perry faces claims of more Gulf War poisoning

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE announcement by the Pentagon yesterday that a further 5,000 troops who served in the Gulf War had been exposed to chemical weapons crowned an embarrassing fortnight for William Perry, the Defence Secretary, whose future appears increasingly uncertain.

During testimony before Congress the previous day, Mr Perry had finally admitted responsibility for failed leadership in the deaths of 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia in June.

He had just returned from a singularly unsuccessful diplomatic shuttle trip to the Middle East, aimed at rallying the coalition against President Saddam Hussein as America dispatched further troops, aircraft carrier battle groups and other military hardware to the region.

And it was the Defence Secretary who, the previous week, had made the most forthright statements about

"disproportionate" response to any further provocations from Saddam after 44 ineffectual American airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

The notification yesterday to veterans of the Gulf that thousands more troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons during the war, rather than the initial 150 discussed earlier this year, can only further claims of a cover-up during Mr Perry's tenure at the Pentagon.

Formerly the department's deputy, the normally soft-spoken academic had never sought the top post at the Pentagon in 1994 after the resignation of Les Aspin over the Administration's accelerated efforts to allow homosexuals into the military.

Instead President Clinton had selected a retired admiral after pursuing Senator Sam Nunn and others deemed "Washington superstars". Exasperated by his inability to

had finally turned to Mr Perry, a man widely respected in the defence community for his first-hand knowledge of weapons' technology but someone with little administrative or foreign policy experience.

A successful early tenure started to sour earlier this year with revelations of cheating and drug scandals at the Annapolis Naval Academy followed by the suicide of Admiral Mike Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations, amid talk of senior officers currying political favour from the Clinton Administration.

In July, Mr Perry himself came under attack for being the only member of the Cabinet to indulge in the costly procedure of midair refuelling, an action normally reserved for combat missions. His one-way flight to Sydney had cost an estimated \$137,729 (£88,000).

After the death of US airmen in Dhahran leading Re-

publicans, including Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called for Mr Perry to accept responsibility and resign.

In a belated *mea culpa* this week, Mr Perry defended the senior officers who had failed to secure the housing complex in Saudi Arabia. "I will not seek to delegate responsibility for this tragedy on any of my military commanders," he said. "To the extent this tragedy resulted in the failure of leadership, that responsibility is mine and mine alone."

Mr Perry has given no indication that he will stand down and is unlikely to do so before the election. He is not expected to serve in a second administration.

Senior national security aides have talked of him as a "loose cannon" since an incident in which, at a time when Bosnia was thought to be an electoral minefield, he admitted that American troops would remain in the region for more than a year.



## DINNER AT GRANNY'S HOUSE

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# Chips down for blue Wall Street

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WALL STREET'S traders, the sharpest-toothed dogs of capitalism, have been told to watch their language.

The US National Association of Securities Dealers, which regulates the conduct of about 520,000 financial brokers across the United States, has demanded an end to the swearing that traditionally has decorated life on the

ing them that "the use of profane or obscene language", either to clients or to colleagues, may in future be punished with four-figure fines.

Reid Walker, a spokesman for the Washington-based association, said yesterday that bad language was damaging the credibility of the market. He added: "It is better for business if you work professionally. This is about behaviour, not just random words."

One trader said yesterday: "Bad language is part of life

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# Iraqi-backed Kurd asks West to shield him from Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Kurdish leader who asked President Saddam Hussein for military help to defeat a rival Kurdish faction was now "urgently" asking the Gulf War allies for protection, John Deutch, the CIA director, revealed yesterday.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), was "urgently" asking for our assistance... in an effort to keep Saddam Hussein at arm's length", Mr Deutch said in congressional testimony. On Wednesday, Mr Barzani briefly left Iraq to hold a meeting with Robert Pelletreau, the Assistant US Secretary of State, in Turkey. Neither man commented on the meeting afterwards.

Mr Barzani precipitated the present Iraq crisis late last month by inviting Saddam's forces into the Kurdish haven north of the 36th parallel to help him to capture the city of Arbil and drive back the forces of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Mr Barzani's ploy worked, and the KDP now controls most of northern Iraq, but Mr Deutch said that he was playing an "enormously dangerous game". The CIA chief recalled how Saddam had massacred Kurds, including

members of Mr Barzani's family, in 1991 and said the Iraqi dictator was now pressuring Mr Barzani to "negotiate a framework for autonomy under Baghdad's overall control". Mr Deutch said the Iraqi military had withdrawn south of the 36th parallel, but Saddam had left a network of intelligence and security officers in the Kurdish zone.

He gave no indication how the coalition would respond to Mr Barzani's appeal, but it is unlikely to be sympathetic.

Saddam's incursion into the Kurdish haven led the US to launch 44 cruise missiles against targets in southern Iraq, a move which divided the allies.

As Mr Deutch was speaking in Washington, the US military build-up in the region gathered pace. A second US aircraft carrier group led by the *USS Enterprise* arrived in the Gulf to join the *USS Carl Vinson*. As many as 3,500 US troops were arriving in Kuwait last night and today, reinforcing the 1,200 already there. A formidable array of warplanes arrived a few days ago.

These forces could be used to mount new attacks on Iraq if it defies the expanded southern no-fly zone, or to defend Kuwait, though Mr Deutch said the prospects of another Iraqi attack on the emirate were "very low". US military analysts estimate the cost of the build-up at \$200-\$250 million (£130-160 million).

"It is not possible to say that [Saddam] is not stronger today than he was six weeks ago.

## Netanyahu rejects Syrian call for Golan concessions

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday ruled out concessions being demanded by Syria for reopening peace talks stalled since February as new violence flared in Lebanon. Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded Hezbollah targets after two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in an ambush.

The eruption of fighting, which brought to 20 the number

of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon by pro-Iranian guerrillas this year, came amid an urgent new American mediation attempt to defuse tension between Israel and Syria prompted by dramatic troop movements on both sides of the border.

News of the flare-up along the only active Arab-Israeli war front came as Mr Netanyahu was being interviewed by *The Times* and

### Peres bows out of race

SHIMON PERES, right, the former Israeli Prime Minister and the main architect of the Palestinian peace accords, said yesterday he would not be a candidate for the premiership at the next elections in 2000 (Ross Dunn writes). The front-runner to succeed Mr Peres, 73, is Ehud Barak, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli defence forces. He is expected to be challenged by Haim Ramon, the former militant union leader.



America's first female chain-gang shuffles off awkwardly on its way to pick up litter in the scorching streets of Phoenix yesterday

## Sheriff puts his chain-gang women on parade

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FOR HER first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a second of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates to yell back at her.

One verse went: We got to work so we don't get fat, We wear orange suits and little orange hats, Big wide belts and black shiny boots, People say we look cute.

Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix shuffled off a bus onto the

scorching streets yesterday to pick up litter and show what it means to be a criminal in the backyard of "America's toughest sheriff".

They were not cute, but they were instant celebrities. Summoned by Sheriff Joe Arpaio's well-oiled publicity machine, an international media horde gathered to witness the latest, eye-catching punishment conceived by a man who likes to think of himself as the West's meanest law enforcer since Wyatt Earp. Mr Arpaio is admired by 85 per cent of Phoenix citizens, reviled by civil rights groups and endured by his inmates.

"It's hell in the hole. That's why we're out here," said Richardson, 42, a

motorcycle gang member serving a one-year sentence for aggravated assault after trying to shoot her allegedly abusive husband. She was referring to the Estrella jail's 23-hour-a-day "lockdown" wing in which inmates live four to a cell in temperatures of up to 110F (43C), sharing an unenclosed lavatory, for violating prison rules.

Thirty-day stints on chain-gang duty are offered as a quick way out of lockdown. "It's kind of an honour for us to have the opportunity to get back on an inmate status," Michelle Allen said, serving time for selling drugs and equipped for the day with weeding gloves, water bottle and a

rake. Struggling to walk in rhythm with the two women chained to her left foot, Allen set off down bleak and shadeless Van Buren Street under the approving gaze of Mr Arpaio. "They get a diploma when it's over," he announced. "It says 'Last Chance Chain-Gang', and that's exactly what it means. If they get out of line again, they finish their term in lockdown."

Mr Arpaio, a rotund former narcotics officer, had justified women chain-gangs by saying that crime has no gender, so neither should punishment. "Is this politically incorrect?" he asked. "All I know is it is tough, and I like that. I am not a social worker: I'm out here to punish."

## Koalas to be given the Pill

Melbourne: The Australian state of Victoria plans to give koalas vasectomies and a version of the Pill to curb their growing numbers.

Wildlife officials who unveiled the plan yesterday said that although koalas were not considered threatened in Victoria, populations of the voracious eucalyptus eaters were up to 10 times the norm at some sites. Leaf consumption was exceeding supply, they added.

"If we don't face up to this issue... then there are several areas across the state which will suffer long-term ecological damage and koalas will starve," said Marie Tahan, state conservation and land management minister.

An adult koala eats more than a pound of leaves every day. Earlier this year, proposals by South Australia to cull up to 2,000 koalas due to overpopulation sparked a national outcry from animal lovers. The Australian Government resolved to move those animals but found there was a shortage of suitable sites. (Reuters)

## Apartheid killer admits to remorse

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

EUGENE DE KOCK, apartheid's most notorious assassin, insisted yesterday that he was telling the truth about "dirty tricks" operations under white minority rule as the prosecution in his trial and others attacked his honesty.

The prosecution began their cross-examination of de Kock's testimony in mitigation of sentence amid attacks on his evidence from several prominent people, including Winnie Mandela. President Mandela's former wife has denounced de Kock as a "lunatic" and "liar" after he claimed that one of his victims was her "sex slave". Mrs Mandela has indicated she is preparing to take legal action

against the former police colonel, suggesting he had ulterior motives in making some of his claims. "It's his hallucination," she said.

During his testimony earlier this week de Kock told the Pretoria Supreme Court how he had shot dead one of his men, Johannes Mophatha, after he defected to Mrs Mandela's "football club", the group of young men who acted as her bodyguards. De Kock said he heard from a police colleague that Mophatha had complained about being Mrs Mandela's "sex slave".

Revelations of this kind have peppered the testimony by de Kock, who ran a death squad in the Eighties and

only inflicted pain and suffering.

De Kock said his wife and children left him and emigrated after he told her about his work. He said at times he wished he had never been born, and felt "tainted and dirty" for the suffering he inflicted.

Anton Ackerman, for the prosecution, pointed out that de Kock had previously lied under oath during investigations and suggested that he was good actor. De Kock admitted that he had lied before several commissions of inquiry and in court cases, but he said he was now being truthful because his back was against the wall.

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## Loving God and loving a priest

Clelia Podestá shocked the Vatican by marrying an Argentinian bishop and writing their story.

Margaret Hebbelthwaite reports

**O**n July 28, 1990, a Roman Catholic bishop was seen at Mass hand-in-hand with a woman. This was not the Right Rev Roderick Wright, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. No, this was the Argentinian bishop, Jerónimo Podestá, and his wife, Clelia.

The occasion was an International Congress of Married Catholic Priests and their Families in Brasília. I was invited to give one of the addresses, because I, too, married a priest — the late Vatican expert Peter Hebbelthwaite.

Clelia and Jerónimo had natural authority. They had strength and grace and wisdom. I asked Jerónimo if he was the only married Catholic bishop. He replied: "I am the only one who dares show his face."

Jerónimo and Clelia are now advanced in years, but the early days of their love is told in a book she published in July. *Mi nombre es Clelia* (My name is Clelia) is a response to the Vatican officials who would refer to her only as "that woman".

So much of what she says resonates with my own knowledge of how loving God and loving a priest can be intertwined. From her book, this is her story.

Clelia Luro married very young, and the marriage broke down after ten years, leaving her with six daughters. She met the Bishop of Avellaneda in 1966. Jerónimo Podestá had pioneered a forward-looking pastoral plan in his working-class diocese, forming teams of worker priests and urging his clergy to be concerned with local problems.

Clelia wrote after their first meeting: "It was as if we had known each other always. With men like that, how different the Church would be." Meanwhile Jerónimo was making his own notes: "I see something audacious in that decided woman, who has no inhibitions ... She speaks to me with great supernatural love

and clear human affection, and I feel that she brings me a message."

A few weeks later Clelia went to see Jerónimo again, and he took her into the oratory, gave her Communion and knelt down beside her. "I felt the presence of God," she wrote. She offered to put his untidy room in order, and he replied: "No. You are going to help me put the Church in order."

In a letter that Christmas, Clelia wrote: "Dear Jerónimo, I asked God why I love like this: I did not want to love, it hurts ... Your hands, Jerónimo, I love your hands that consecrate and bless ... your lips that give out His Word, your eyes that reflect

'I asked  
God why I  
loved you  
like this.  
I did not  
want to'

God, your feet that do not tire with travelling to announce the Gospel."

On January 2, 1967, Jerónimo wrote back: "Dear Clelia, God has united us so much. He has united us in one mission and a common vocation ... I love you so much, with all my being."

But the Church authorities, in collusion with the military Government of General Juan Carlos Onega, lost little time. Clelia believed correctly that spies were set on them.

The Nuncio (the representative of the Pope in Argentina) paid a surprise visit to Jerónimo before January was out, bringing two archbishops to fulfil the requirements for a "canonical admittance". Yet as far as Clelia and Jerónimo could see, their friendship was not scandalous.

The net tightened after

• *Mi nombre es Clelia* is published by Editorial Heroes, Santiago de Chile.

## I haven't been so close to models — now I'm depressed

Vogue sent Ruby Wax to Paris to report on the haute couture shows. This is her verdict from the front row at Versace

**I**t is really life and death where you are seated at these shows. Women have opened veins and bled to death if they are placed in a back row, because if the Virgin remained hidden in the Church as the Virgin remained hidden in the Gospels. She told him that if he really loved the Church he should change his clothes and live for a year in the world.

Like every tale of love between a woman and an ordained celibate, the story of Clelia and Jerónimo is marked with tenderness and struggle. But there is something more. Behind and beyond the human love is a reaching out to something transcendent. It is enough to understand why Clelia prefers to speak of "priestly couples" rather than of "married priests".

Jerónimo added a few words. Clelia's concern with the priesthood, he said, was the "determining thread of this story, which is an affirmation of woman, of liberty and of the priestly meaning of life".

The Nuncio (the representative of the Pope in Argentina) paid a surprise visit to Jerónimo before January was out, bringing two archbishops to fulfil the requirements for a "canonical admittance". Yet as far as Clelia and Jerónimo could see, their friendship was not scandalous.

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Out they come, bones it doesn't matter what the magazines tell you; colours may change, the hemline may go up or down, but what's really "in" fashion, year after year, is tall, tall skeletons. I have never seen models close up and I suddenly become very depressed. My skin in no way resembles what covers these people. Theirs is flawless. Tawny, tawny, tawny. I have to buy this colour; they grow it.

They gracefully move their long legs, taking hours to rotate them in those hard, jutting hips. I am in awe. This is what these women do for a living. They walk up. They walk down. And all of them, before they swivel off in the other direction, look really angry at someone who seems to be hanging inches from the ceiling in the distance. From the earlier exultation of sitting in IA, I sink into a bubbling mass of self-loathing and depression. Internally I say: "This is what women are supposed to look like you ... you runt."

The show starts. I know this because a swarm of paparazzi crushes my feet. First we see a giant naked photo of Kate Moss and her nipples and I wonder what the hell we're supposed to be buying. Are the rips for sale, or what? Then the photo parts, the lights dim, sexy music starts and the stuck insects begin their parade.

After the show, we all have to kiss Versace, who is as thrilled to meet me as I am when I get a yeast infection. And in a huge motorway-crash pile-up of Dior bags and facelifts, we squish into the Ritz bar where the Eurostars gather at the champions

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troughs.

I'm sitting with Lucinda and Alex, the theme being the death of the jacket. Mario, Vogue's photographer, is described to me as "sooooo funny", and you have to beg to be shot by him, no matter how big you are. He looks through me till I jokingly kick him in the nuts. He then dribbles some gossip our way, as we whoof the free olives.

Linda Evangelista has lost weight. This is all-important, 'cause her career was dipping last year, due to a few chins. The reason being that her lung collapsed on an airplane, and she had to be stitched up from her flanks to her shoulder and she couldn't do sit-ups, thus the turn. But now thank God, she's chair-smoking and thin again.

We were then all, en masse, transported to the Versace party for food, though no one present had ever eaten anything in their lives. Before I go on, I just want to say I had done a television show at



Wax and the impossible dream. "This is what women are supposed to look like, you runt!"

The real  
fashion,  
year after  
year, is  
tall, tall  
skeletons

Cannes a year earlier where I crashed Mickey Rourke's press conference.

Mickey made us wait two-and-a-half hours while, as his PR person explained, he had to get his head together. We all had to watch him try to get his head together, on the beach, and then he came to us in a cloud of arrogance. His gorilla-in-tux PR person told us

not to ask stupid questions. After a few lewd comments from the press, Mickey explained that *9½ Weeks*, part one, was not about "loving", as the press implied. "It's a 'mental thing'." Also, they weren't sure who the new girl was going to be in part two, so please don't ask. I stood up, introduced myself as Ruby Wax, BBC, volunteered to be "the new girl" and said, even though it was more of a mental thing he was doing, he was fantastic at schtuping. I was thrown out.

Now cut to the Versace party and who sits down next to me? Mickey. He introduces to me the girl beside him as his co-star in *9½ Weeks*, Part Two. My life is like a sitcom. Mickey doesn't remember me or anything, so he tells me how much he admires his co-star. I say, if you like her so



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## TOP FASHION

### PLUS: COOL BRITANNIA

The Style section is devoted to London Fashion Week — the funkiest frocks, the hippest hotels, the hottest parties, the most fabulous florists and even Michael Winner's fashion tips

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A jagged little  
pill to  
swallow:  
Caitlin  
Moran on the  
fact that  
women rock  
stars only  
succeed if  
they appeal  
to men —  
Arts, pages  
32-34

كذلك من الأصل

# 'You can admire Thatcher and support Labour'

The unimpeachably rich Bob Gavron has come to the aid of the Labour Party with £500,000 because he feels "comfortable with the party" at last. Since he is just the kind of benefactor they need, they want him to come out and say so. Until now, he has kept a low profile: "I never wanted to become well-known principally for making money."

With his woolly white curls, nut-brown face, shoe-button eyes and clownishly toothsome smile, he increasingly resembles Harpo Marx: the first person to tell him so was Vitas Gerulaitis, in a Tokyo nightclub. Walking his dogs on Hampstead Heath each morning in a curious hat with earflaps, he would never be taken for a tycoon. Socially he is engaging and unassuming. But as his old Oxford friend Jeremy Isaacs points out, nobody gets to be where Gavron is without thumping a few tables; and thump he does, at Royal Opera House board meetings.

As a cultivated businessman who made his millions from printing, he has been wooed by politicians before. Bill Rodgers tried to recruit him as a potential SDP peer in the early 1980s, but Gavron, who thought Barbara Castle's *In Place of Strife* "brilliant", had then become something of a Thatcherite: "I was never a Tory. Absolutely not. But you can admire Lady Thatcher and still be a Labour Party supporter."

Gavron grew up, elder son of a Labour-voting patent lawyer, in Hampstead Garden Suburb. The Mandelsons were neighbours: Peter's father, Tony, the advertising manager of the *Jewish Chronicle*, took young Bob for his first espresso coffee in Soho. He went to Michael Foot's old Quaker school, Leighton Park, at Reading, then Oxford, where he played Buttons to Ned Sherrin's Fairy Queen (Nigel Lawson was a chorus boy), was literary editor of *Chaworth*, and read law. At Oxford Labour Club, where he was impressed by the fiery oratory of "old Stansgate", Tony Benn's father, he knew Gerald Kaufman — "but I was just as friendly with Michael Heseltine. I would never not be friendly with someone just because of their political views."

"But I've never been really passionate about politics, until now. This is the first time I



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Bob Gavron is said to be a tycoon who always gets what he wants — so what made him want to hand over half a million pounds to Labour?

don't feel I have to adapt myself to support Labour. I think a lot of Labour people had to adapt themselves in the past. I'm comfortable with the Labour Party now. I like and trust Tony Blair."

He first met Blair at a birthday party *chez Blair's*, friend Charlie Falconer QC. Gavron later invited Blair to an Institute for Public Policy Research dinner for industrialists and Shadow ministers. Blair, then employment spokesman, spoke of his plan to reverse some Tory union reforms. Gavron, who had given £100,000 to Neil Kinnock's election campaign, was unhappy: he invited Blair to meet him privately.

"Blair argued his case well," Gavron says. He would never claim to have influenced Blair — but Blair's views have certainly changed.

Gavron trained as a barrister but "to delay the life-sentence of a career" took an executive traineeship with a jobbing printer in Soho, which meant welding broom on the first day.

**I**f middle-class people go into the printing trade, it's assumed that you must be interested in fine art prints or old typefaces. I was interested in Marks and Spencer style, efficiency and reliability." For nine years he observed how "most printers regard customers as a nuisance". He borrowed £5,000 and took over an ailing company which he cautiously named St Ives rather than Gavron ("Supposing I went bust?") as one of its factories stood in the Huntingdonshire town. It grew into a

Naked bathing for the guests is a rule of the house

When he stepped down in 1993 after 29 years as chairman, St Ives was worth £400 million. He remains the biggest shareholder. "But I don't stalk the corridors. I take a collegiate attitude to running a company. People will call me

autocratic, but I believed in passing shares around. When we floated, there were several millionaires." He could have become even richer had he not been such a financial conservative. "As a lawyer, I think you should be meticulous straight and honest. I don't go in for tax avoidance. I don't like renting or borrowing."

For his 60th birthday last Friday his children gave him a Wilson Sledgehammer tennis racket with which to carry on beating his wife. Guests who play tennis on the court in his garden are invited to plunge into his warm subterranean pool afterwards, and are instructed not to bother with swimsuits. Naked bathing is also the rule at his house in Provence (in Peter Mayle's village — but Gavron got there first).

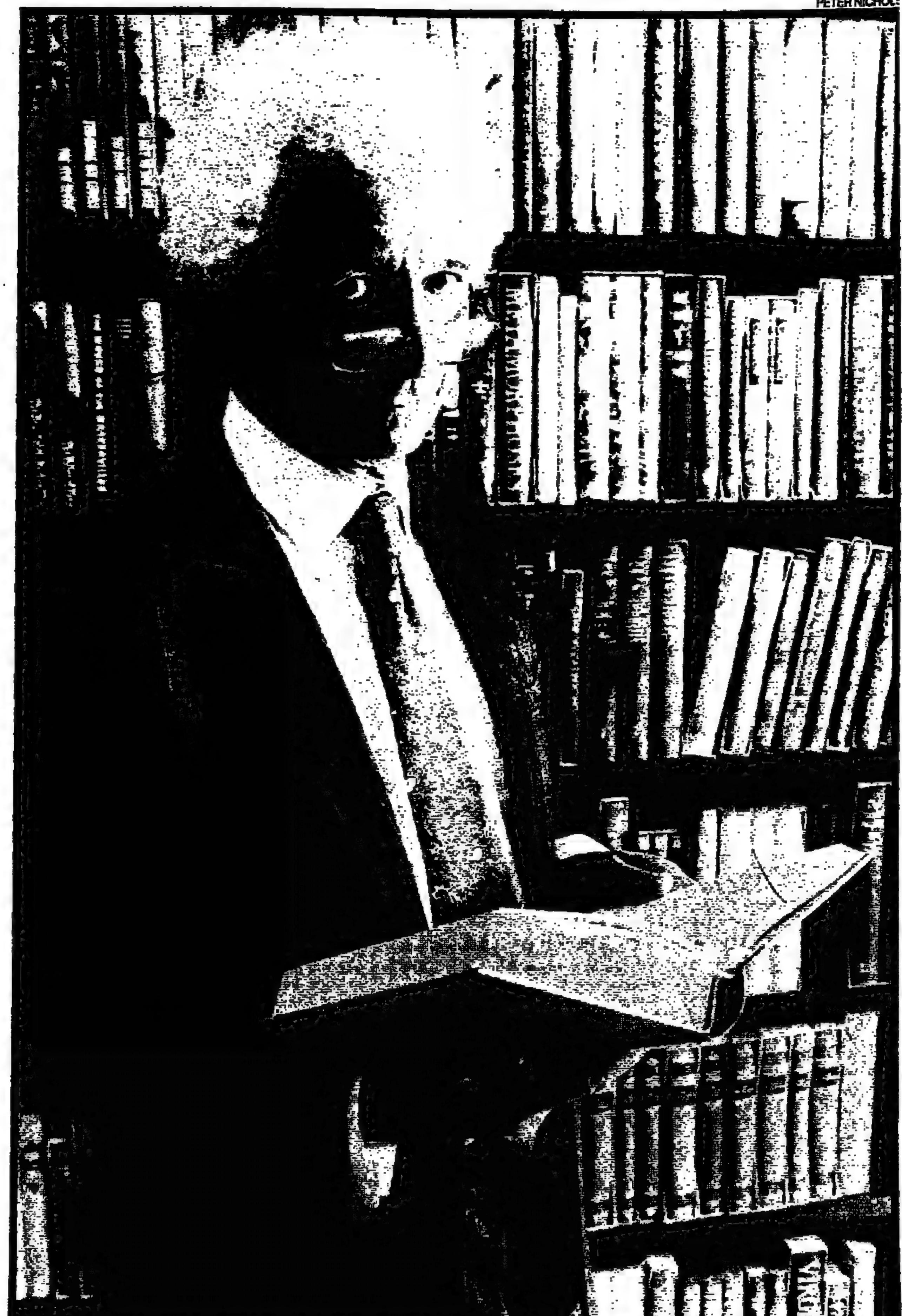
**H**is manorial Highgate house formerly belonged to the pianist Clifford Curzon, whose vast music room is now Gavron's library, with cupola and Arts & Crafts decor, and a concealed button that lets down a full-size cinema screen. He is a bit of a film buff, a dabbler who also likes chamber music, jazz, opera, ballet, books. Tuesday this week found him at the launch of Brian Britvi's life of Gaitshill (Gavron's hero) in London University's Senate House, where Roy Hattersley and Barbara Castle locked horns in an "old" Labour debate. Gavron was accompanied by Cressida and Julia, Gaitshill's daughters.

He has always taken long holidays and time off for tennis and squash; he never worked long hours. "I'm a delegator. And a good people-picker. If you motivate people, they will be worthy of your trust." Two of his best friends in the industry were Christopher Bland (now BBC Chairman) and Michael Green, of Carlton. When offered the chance to buy the Folio Society, he was told that Bland and the Saatchis were also interested, and "signed a cheque over lunch". How much? "Oh I don't remember darling. Either side of a million I think." The Folio, the bibliophiles' book club, approaches its 50th anniversary with smart new headquarters (which cost Gavron £2 million) and a rising membership. His first suggestion as chairman was that they drop plans to do

Gibson's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. It became a top seller. Whenever he intervenes now, they remind him: "Remember Gibson." He backed Carmen Callil when she set up the feminist press Virago, and later purchased it, until their acrimonious split last year. Callil, unhappy about Kate Gavron becoming chairman of her brainchild after her own resignation, proposed the sale of the company to Little, Brown. It was the end of a 30-year friendship: Callil and Gavron have not spoken since. He

says: "Carmen always gets what she wants." She says: "Bob always gets what he wants."

He has plenty of tables to thumb, as one of nature's committee men: on the board of the National Gallery and Covent Garden, vice-president of the Poetry Society, and a trustee and treasurer of the IPPR. Tessa Blackstone's think-tank. As a potential Labour peer he would surely be an obvious choice to run the Arts Council? Gavron cannot possibly comment. "But obviously, I can run things," he says.



Bob Gavron: a keen business brain beneath the woolly white curls and growing resemblance to Harpo Marx

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## Everybody do the Cabinet reshuffle



### SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Joe Joseph

Bernard Ingham or Peter Mandelson — would be Westminster's legendary spin-doctor. Socially ambitious women would boast of how they had danced with a man who danced with a girl who danced with the Foreign Secretary. Political pundits would tune in to *Come Dancing*, not *Newsnight*.

At first it may look like a tiny sliver of political wisdom. But this gem could yet see us through the grim party conference season ahead.

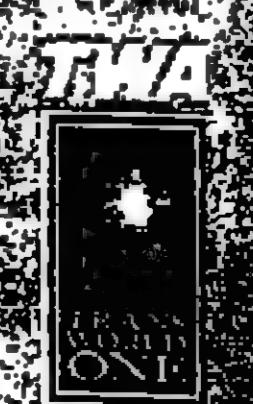
If only we judged MPs by their quicksteps instead of their soundbites, then the late Victor Silvester — not Sir

around his armpit and a red rose-stem between his teeth? While Tony tangoed, John Major would be gently twisting with Norma. Pro-Europeans would embrace Ciroc, the new continental dance craze. Euro-sceptics would stick to a stiff-backed waltz. James Goldsmith would not move until everyone had been given a chance to choose which dance they really wanted.

In the middle of the ballroom, Paddy Ashdown and his fit troops would be line dancing, all looking gung-ho in their cowboy boots but not really going anywhere.

Cicero, as astute a politician as you could hope to rumba with, thought that no sober man danced unless he happened to be mad. Luckily for us, most politicians are.

Pillows, duvets, sheets, blankets.  
Honestly, you're not dreaming.



# Let sink schools go private

Robert Skidelsky says Tory reforms are too timorous

Educational standards in our schools are too low and need to be raised. This central point, which all political parties accept, is ignored on this page on Wednesday by Simon Jenkins, who cheerfully claimed that outside London and a few big cities all is well with British education. What are the facts? Last year's national tests of 11-year-olds show most pupils failing to achieve expected British standards in literacy and numeracy. Cross-country tests at 13 show that they fall even more miserably to measure up to international standards. Since the 1960s our standards have slipped relatively, perhaps absolutely. And it is not because we spend less money on education than similar countries. It is the value per pound spent which is inferior.

There are three ways one can think of to increase the returns on educational spending. The government can order all teachers and schools to behave in certain ways. Or it can allow schools to select with each other for custom.

Since 1988, the Conservatives have tried the first, "top-down" approach. They have imposed a national system on the 25,000 state primary and comprehensive schools, with production plans (the National Curriculum), output targets ("levels of attainment"), and testing and inspection systems. Additionally, the Government has taken in hand the training of teachers. This approach, modeled on Soviet planning, was adopted with a straight face by a Conservative Government committed to variety and choice.

Simon Jenkins claims that "central government diktat" is restoring standards. But the evidence is against him. Robert Campbell, director of education studies at Warwick University, finds that, after eight years of "top-down" reform, literacy and numeracy in primary schools have not improved, and may even have declined — a judgment endorsed by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. The reason is not hard to find. The Government has set up a system which encourages everyone to cheat, from the top down. What you get is not a "central diktat", but a tacit collusion between the "stakeholders" of the planned service (Government, teacher unions, LEAs) to pretend that the plan is being fulfilled ("standards are rising") when in fact it is not. But the day of reckoning can be long postponed by the many stratagems for reclassification failure as success.

Apparently disenchanted with the results of the "top-down" approach, the Government has started to espouse a selective school system. "A grammar school in every town," John Major recently proclaimed. Grant-maintained schools might become the new grammar schools; the City Technology Colleges the nucleus of a new technical school sector. Other schools might specialise in vocational studies, music, drama, sport, and so on.

The key point of this meritocratic model is selection of pupils by schools; its political weakness is the association of selection with the old "plus". Labour's version of selectivity

is to "group by ability" within comprehensives. This ignores the difficulty of developing a selective ethos within schools founded on the principle of non-selection. Both Tory and Labour versions of selection pull against the logic of "top-down" control. Hence the widespread suspicion that education policy is in a mess.

Conservative ministers have never much believed in parental choice — except as regards their own children. Yet this is the governing principle of the highly successful independent sector. No one denies that private schools compete for the custom of parents. No one denies that standards in most independent schools are higher than in most state schools — without any "top-down" planning. So why can't we think of this unplanned, unmeritocratic system as the model for our national education — with all schools in the private sector and competing for custom on the basis of quality and price?

One obvious reason is that most parents cannot afford to "go private". But suppose that every family received an annual earmarked cheque for each school-aged child. This is the voucher principle. The voucher is simply a device for giving parents the power to buy the education they want for children, rather than having education allocated through the tax system. Schools and teachers would be directly accountable to parents — not to government and their quangos.

Critics say that most parents do not know or care enough about education to choose wisely. But information about schools can be easily supplied. And why should it be thought that caring about education is the monopoly of those who send their children to private schools? These are classic diversionary tactics.

The transition from a state to a private school system cannot take place overnight. But there is an obvious starting point. The worst of our state schools are in inner-city areas. Why not declare such areas "education enterprise zones" and offer to lease the lowest performing schools in them to private charitable educational trusts freed from detailed regulations? School payments could be done by voucher in any zone in which a minimum number of these "private schools" was operating.

Simon Jenkins writes "at least Skidelsky's sink schools would be rich, albeit at a huge price to the Treasury". Wrong: there would be no price to the Treasury, since the State already pays far more per pupil in "sink" schools than the national average. But the main point is that under private management they would no longer be sink schools — any more than the Catholic schools in the slums of New York are sink schools.

Such a scheme could be adopted without any commitment to universal private education. But it could also be a first step to the wider system I have in mind. Let us consign national schools and H-plus to the history books where they belong, and trust private initiative driven by parental choice to raise national standards.

Lord Skidelsky's pamphlet *A Question of Standards* is published by Politeia.



## A tale of two colonies

Tibet's martyrdom continues — and next July Britain will hand over the Hong Kong people to the perpetrators

their passports in ones. After all, if anything went wrong (by which I mean that they ceased to raise in the money in billions) they would want only one passport to leave and settle in, say, New York. And what about the roughly five million who would be left behind, because they do not count their money in billions?

We have to acknowledge the truth (which is very rarely to be found in the Foreign Office), that the Chinese authorities have already broken the flimsy first promises they made. The Chinese Government has already made it clear that it intends to over-

ride the wishes of the people of Hong Kong in two important areas: the commitment to abolish the present Legislative Council and the announcement that Chinese military personnel will not be subject to civil law in the territory. (Yet again, the Foreign Office will trot out its *mantra* — "China would never cut off its nose to spite its face".) And China has ignored many an olive branch, and I fear that many another olive branch will be ignored before Peking rejoins civilisation. But, you see, the very rich in Hong Kong have no such worries: Covenants, Basic Law, transitional arrangements — these are nothing to the tycoons.

What happened to the organisation created in Peking called the Preparatory Committee for managing the transition? "The committee is already operating in the classic Communist mould . . . the obedient Preparatory Committee will give way to a puppet legislature that Peking will install . . . Protests have already broken out in Hong Kong . . . but what may anger the democracy advocates most is that China has found it so easy to recruit so many of the biggest tycoons in Hong Kong to its cause."

That's nothing, but much can come from nothing. More and more, there are clashes with the police in Hong Kong, and don't think that they are about drunkards reeling home. Already there are demonstrations almost daily, and even the most

innocent visitor would not mistake their purpose: they are demonstrations against the Communists. As the day comes closer — it is July 1 next year — more and more people are trying to get out before the gong sounds. True, there are many like the tycoons who have made their financial peace with Peking, but very many more will be held in the grip of real worry or even panic. And where will the panicky ones go?

Stop and think, what we would feel if we were told that on July 1 next year we would all be under the regime of communism. Would we not

demonstrate in the streets? I would. And if one of the most senior and powerful Communists — Li Peng — arrived from Peking to make sure that five million hitherto free men and women would

have to bow the knee, would you not demonstrate? Not demonstrate? Not even when

... police reinforcements moved in as the crowd surged forward towards Mr Li's car. Demonstrators complained of rough police treatment as they attempted to present Mr Li with a petition . . .

And did you read the little argument when Li Peng was to discuss the sale of French aeroplanes, and somehow the conversation took a different turn, and these monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were spoken: M Chirac had . . . undermined the importance France attaches to these democratic universal values". And the Chinese insisted that those monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were to be expunged, and they were.

I have perhaps painted Hong Kong in colours somewhat too dark: time will show. If I have, I shall be the first to declare that I was wrong. Yet something tugs at my coat, and I find myself in a shadow; merely a shadow — but the Chinese occupation of Tibet is a dreadful and murderous story, and I have now to add something hardly less dreadful.

You will find it almost unbelievable

when I say that the Chinese occupation of Tibet has now reached a greater level of madness and cruelty altogether. Believe it or not, when pictures of the Dalai Lama are hung outside monasteries, the Chinese not only tear them down, but beat and torture the Buddhists — men and women alike — who put them up.

From a bystander, this:

Some people were walking, some people could not walk. They were holding each other and some were crying or screaming . . . Their whole faces were sore and covered with blood . . . on the other truck I saw some legs hanging out of the back . . . up to 80 people, at least 30 women, had been beaten in a clash with the authorities.

Pause for a moment, and repeat what it was that brought out the bloody, cruel and violent in the Chinese repressors: it was that at some monasteries, the monks had hung out pictures of the Dalai Lama. But that is nothing. Here is what the Chinese said, after what they had done. It comes from the Chinese Government's *Tibet Daily* (the words themselves are a vileness). In a front-page editorial, it called on policemen in the region to step up the crackdown on separatists and criminals amid reports of anti-Chinese protests and the sealing off of monasteries.

In the "Strike Hard" crackdown on crime we must relentlessly pursue and show no mercy to those splitists who transport, steal and hide explosives and firearms . . . the crackdown on crime should include a campaign with the death penalty imposed whenever warranted.

There has been more brutal repression, some miles from Lhasa. Three monks were shot and injured by the "security forces": several others in the party had broken legs, head wounds and severe beatings. Why? These monks and nuns have no weapons, and would not use them if they had. They do not try to overthrow the brutal rulers of what was once Tibet. They want nothing but a tiny handful of food and the time to meditate.

So why are they persecuted? I can answer. Deep down in these men, so deep that they have no idea that it is there, they know they are doing evil, but the thought cannot reach the surface, and never will, unless one of those holy men brings it up.

P.S. From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong: A sweeping purge of Tibet's . . . temples has begun . . . Vast complexes of temples and domestic buildings . . . have been the focus of repeated crackdowns . . . aimed at "bases of splitist activities" . . . forcing monks and nuns to hurl sacred writings into cesspits . . .

Philip Howard



■ Soon the best golf will be played by Daleks

This robot caddy sounds just the ticket for those of us who ought to be made to shout "Fore!" before we putt. It has been developed in Miami from the computerised navigation systems of space flight. So where the human caddy shakes his watch in disbelief as though it were a compass, the Dalek caddy lets no tremor of contempt disturb the even whine of its voice. For it cannot sneer at your backswing for looking like Demi Moore (no more, thank you) in this week's film *Strip tease*, trying to struggle out of a dress too tight around the shoulders. It cannot see you. And even if it could, its microcircuits would not connect with the compass. It does not go to the movies. Even on a course as unplayable as the Matterhorn, the robot detects your ball unerringly by microchip-sensor, tells you how far you lie from the hole, what hazards yawn ahead and which club to use. And it does not raise its shaggy eyebrows when you then hack the ball backwards between your legs. It has no eyebrows to raise.

Samuel Johnson must have been thinking about golf when he wrote: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age and retain the playthings of childhood." But if grown men are going to carry on playing silly games (and they are), golf is best. Its stars are generally well-behaved role models, because their game is against their own errors rather than against their opponents. So the wild displays of self-congratulation or petulance that shame other games would put golfers off their stroke. There is little bad behaviour and not much snorting of substances to calm the yips. Professional discipline wins the big prizes.

(Though Tommy Bolt, the American golfer famous for his graceful swing and temper, after liping out six straight putts, shook his fist at the heavens and shouted: "Why don't You come down and fight like a man?")

And because it has acquired so many laws and conventions, golf is the best game for the nursery delight in nit-picking. Its vocabulary is interesting. Golf itself is said to be one of the words to slip into English from the Celtic languages. In Gaelic *golf* means a blow with the hand, and an upper-crusty pronunciation of golf is *gof*. The Dutch (and others) disagree, claiming the etymology for *kolf*, the Dutch club for several games that consist of trying to whack a ball with a stick more or less well adapted for the purpose. And much golf jargon, such as *putter* and *niblick*, sounds as though it came across the North Sea to Scotland.

One of the stained-glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral has a picture of a man trying to blast his way out of a bunker centuries before the Royal and Ancient had discovered a profitable use for sandy wastelands by the sea. Much modern golf slang comes from American whimsy: for example, *birdy* and its fledgling *eagles* and *albatrosses*, hatched from the early 19th-century American slang of "bird" as the bee's knees and the cat's pajamas.

Golfing literature is richer than that of any other sport, including even cricket and hunting. For the best sporting journalists are attracted to the mysteries of golf. And the golfing fiction by Wodehouse and others is as pleasing as a well-struck golf putt hitting the back of the hole, shooting three feet into the air and falling back down the hole with a gratifying clunk. On the Master's golden Never-Never-Course, the Wrecking Crew are pottering away 200 yards down the fairway about to get an ugly shock in the seat of the Gravedigger's plus-fours, some millionaire is playing another, winner to take buster, and at the end, boy gets girl, and fades out into clinch and twittering of birds.

This new Dalek caddy is brilliant copy for a Wodehouse romance among the slicers and hookers. Somebody would sabotage somebody else's caddy to give the wrong club and the wrong advice, culminating in the stock Wodehousian splash into deep water. I hope the Master is busy on it up in some celestial clubhouse.

But to go the whole hog, the space-age golfing Einsteins should invent robots able to hit balls with the scientific precision of a guided missile. The Daleks could then play the game better than we do. And leave us to enjoy conversation and dog walk without humiliation.

## TV times

THE HONCHOS at ITV are gearing up for a new campaign to move *ITV's News at Ten* to an earlier slot in the evening schedule. They failed to shift the flagship news programme three years ago, when John Major objected to the plan. The prospect of a Labour government, however, has given them new impetus.

ITV Network Centre says officially that it has no intention to move the news programme. But there is no doubt that board members are still itching to shift *News at Ten*, and they apparently believe that a Blair government might let them.

Many ITV companies support a switch to the early evening, saying that it would give them freedom to schedule adult drama after the 9pm watershed. MPs believe, however, that it would restrict coverage of parliamentary debates, although the companies have said they would add an extra bulletin at 11pm.

Yesterday, a television source said: "The ITV companies have all but rubber stamped the deal to

move the news in anticipation of a Blair government. They do not believe that Blair would intervene to the same extent as Major."

They may be counting their chickens, however. Peter Mandelson, an influential figure in the Blair camp, sponsored a Commons motion when the change was last mooted, calling for *News at Ten* to be saved.

The key point of this meritocratic model is selection of pupils by schools; its political weakness is the association of selection with the old "plus". Labour's version of selectivity

● To his already bursting list of accomplishments, Vinnie Jones, footballer, crack shot, and Gary Lineker baiter, wants to add another: an appearance on the West End stage. Jones, master of the head butt and scything tackle, is said to have been badgering Sir Cameron Mackintosh for the part of Bill Sykes in the musical *Oliver*.

### Michael taken

EITHER Michael Portillo has Christ-like powers, or the German army is guilty of some serious media manipulation. The Defence Secretary was on a whistlestop tour this week of Bosnia with Volker Rühe, his German counterpart, and was visiting a Franco-German field hospital at Trogir, near Split in nearby Croatia.

While he was shaking hands with patients inside the Mash tent, a German soldier lay outside strapped to a stretcher at a 45 degree angle in a military ambulance. He waited 15 minutes for the visitors to interview him, a drip attached to his wrist along with other medical gadgets, apparently close to death.

When Portillo and Rühe emerged from the tent they talked

to the gravely injured soldier. They were then rushed off to catch their planes home, at which point the injured German soldier jumped up from his stretcher, removed the drip from his wrist and slapped his thigh laughing.

### Mamma mia

CUSTOMERS at one of London's best-known Italian restaurants were taken aback the other day to find a workman in their soup. Beratorelli's in Charlotte Street is in the midst of refurbishment, but a portion of the restaurant has remained open for the duration. Now I learn that the Duke of Edinburgh is a gobbler at

tock. Earlier this week a couple were tucking into lunch when one of the painters joined their table uninvited.

Dispensing with formal introductions, he arrived through the ceiling, landing in fountain of cutlery and wine glasses on his back in the middle of the table. "There was an almighty bang and then there he was," says one onlooker. "The amazing thing was he wasn't badly hurt. He just rubbed his elbow rather ruefully."

● Few sights were more embarrassing at the fifth anniversary party for *The Ministry of Sound*, top rave spot for teenage boppers, than 30-plus Peter "snake-hips" Mandelson in his tuxedo. Meanwhile James Palumbo, founder of the Ministry, ignored celebrities such as Mick Jagger to jaw on Manders as if hoping to be power broker in a new government.

### Sit quietly

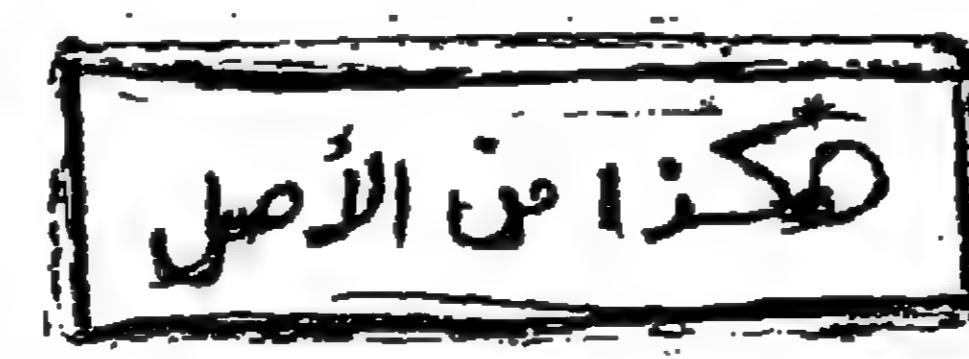
EARLIER this year I reported how the Queen's fidgeting and endless talking during a sitting for the notorious "stubby finger" portrait drove the artist almost to distraction. Now I learn that the Duke of Edinburgh is a gobbler too.

Fortunately, John Orr, who painted the portrait, shown here for the first time, is a tolerant sort.

● The garrulous Duke

"He didn't just answer questions with a short sentence, but would talk for an hour on a subject. The portrait, which is to hang in the Naval & Military Club of which the Duke is President, is said to have delighted Prince Philip.

P.H.S.





## SERIOUS FARCE

The Maxwell affair must produce a wide-ranging review

Almost five years after the mysterious death of Robert Maxwell and the subsequent collapse of his business empire, the affair is, for the criminal law at least, finally over. It is difficult to see how any party, the defendants, their prosecutors, the City of London, or the taxpayer left with a bill exceeding £30 million, can be fully satisfied with events. There are two sets of questions that will be asked in the light of Mr Justice Buckley's decision. The first concerns the judgment of the Serious Fraud Office in pursuing this case despite their original defeat in January. The second is whether far-reaching reform is required in the entire matter of fraud.

On the first count the SFO will note that it never wanted two separate trials. It was forced into that position by the judgment of Mr Justice Phillips that their favoured model of a single 10-count indictment was unwieldy. It may further protest that the prospective second trial — involving an alleged £100 million fraud over the misuse of Berlitz International shares — was significantly different from the alleged theft of pension funds. Hence, the SFO contends, an acquittal in one was irrelevant to the other.

This reasoning ignored one factor. The defence in both instances would be identical: namely that Robert Maxwell was responsible for any criminal actions. That argument had survived a 13-day trial, a record 21-day testimony from Mr Kevin Maxwell, and an unprecedented 12-day jury deliberation. The overwhelming majority of legal opinion recommended abandoning the second endeavour. Having then wagered another £300,000 of public money despite that advice, the Serious Fraud Office cannot avoid additional scrutiny. It can point to an overall conviction rate of 62 per cent and has not lacked internal innovation. But doubts have been raised about whether investigation and prosecution of such situations should be in the hands of the same body. Although the Davie committee considered

and rejected major change only 18 months ago, fresh examination may still be required.

The broader issue has focused on whether conventional juries can cope with cases of such complexity. In January, the Serious Fraud Office hinted that the Government should replace them outright with selected specialists. That suggestion ran counter to a fundamental principle of British law and won little backing. Now the SFO's preferred solution would be smaller juries — with certain specified minimum qualifications such as GCSE Maths.

Such a scheme is more subtle but no more attractive. Fraud trials are hardly unique in being complicated. Furthermore, it seems curious for the SFO to conject that on the one hand it is virtually impossible to achieve convictions in these cases but on the other that it does so 62 per cent of the time. It also glosses over the fact that in the first Maxwell trial an opening 700-strong pool of potential jurors were called and intellectual aptitude was one of the means by which they were whittled down to the final unfortunate dozen. If the data is that detailed and demanding then it is hard to believe that even multiple GCSEs will save the poor layman.

The real area of inquiry should be the complexity of the cases not the jury system. The sorry saga of the last decade — from the Guinness convictions to the Maxwell acquittals — suggests that the criminal law has been brought into areas that would be dealt with better by either civil law or direct regulation, or, in some sectors, left alone entirely. Successive attempts at devising comprehensive formulas for fraud have proved incoherent. Unenforceable law is unacceptable law. As Parliament passed the widely criticised Financial Services Act, it can be blamed at least as much as the Serious Fraud Office. The law, if not exactly an ass, is well short of ideal. It is the House of Commons that must find a solution to this whole unsightly mess.

## MISSION IMPROBABLE

Danger signals from the comic submariners of Pyongyang

The infiltration of South Korea by some 20 armed North Koreans emerging from a beached submarine is both bizarre and alarming. The details of what seems a scarcely credible operation have an anachronistic feel of a bad Cold War film. The North Koreans appear to have panicked after the operation went wrong: the submarine ran aground, and was spotted by a local taxi-driver. The hapless commandos, abandoning their arsenal, feared for their lives and committed mass suicide or were shot by their leader. The others escaped into the mountains but were hunted down. Only one has been captured alive so far and has been talking about the mission: the most serious infiltration from the North for 30 years.

What he has said — persuaded to talk after being plied with four bottles of local whisky — can only add to the bewilderment and alarm in Seoul and regional capitals. The landing was the fourth such espionage mission in less than a month. Hardliners in Pyongyang are as determined as ever to continue military reconnaissance missions in preparation for an eventual full-scale invasion of the South, which has been their military aim ever since the 1953 armistice. The South Koreans regularly run into ill-equipped and amateurish commando missions. The captured North Korean has now revealed that at least 1,000 agents, including an all-female squad, have been trained to carry out spying and sabotage missions.

South Korea has never underestimated the dangers of living next to the last Stalinist state in the world, one so secretive, bellicose and paranoid that its actions are neither predictable nor rational. There were hopes — mostly in Western capitals — that with the

death of Kim Il Sung, the autocratic founder of the Communist state, the way would be open to a more realistic assessment in Pyongyang of the military balance and North Korea's own desperate economic plight. Such hopes are premature. The military hardliners are as fanatically inculcated in Kim's doctrine as ever. The huge army, though ill-fed and poorly equipped, is still trained for imminent invasion, and North Korea's determination to develop nuclear weapons appears unchecked either by technical setbacks or outside political pressure.

More ominously, the failure by Kim's son, Kim Jong Il, to inherit all the powers and authority of his father suggests a continuing power struggle in Pyongyang. All this comes against a background of economic decline, natural catastrophe, corruption and mismanagement on a scale that has put up to 20 million people at risk of starvation. The South has tried to increase its leverage with rice shipments and emergency aid; the response has been, by turns, truculent or emollient, with North Korean officials seeming to accept a degree of openness and reform and then retreating into hostile secrecy.

North Korea has no friends. Its former allies, especially China, have attempted to counsel moderation but have little leverage and are as concerned as other neighbours by the threat of a desperate, pre-emptive strike to save an imploding regime. Neither United Nations protest nor American warnings appear to have effect. Patience, persistence, vigilance and a strong military preparedness are the only way of dealing with a country whose leaders have brought it to the brink of disaster and who seem quite prepared to bring others down in its fall.

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir, Dr Brivati's otherwise excellent article on Hugh Gaiskell (September 14) was marred by its unnecessary attack on contemporary opponents of the European Union. If Dr Brivati recognises that Gaiskell was motivated by honourable motives, why cannot he accept that others too may be moved by considerations which have nothing to do with xenophobia?

Nevertheless, it is sobering to contemplate the fact that were it not for Gaiskell's untimely death, he would almost certainly have become Prime Minister in 1964, and UK policy would have then been so oriented that it is highly unlikely Heath would have had the opportunity to fulfil his dream of submerging Britain into the European superstate.

On such a relatively small matter as the health of one man do the fates of nations turn.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN BULLEN  
(National Membership Secretary,  
UK Independence Party),  
119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg ("Deflate the big idea, not our economies", September 16) sets out some of the consequences implicit in the adoption of a single European currency, but he did not include the most significant.

When I assumed the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe in 1964 the Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (EfA) at the time, Sir Frank Figures, wrote to wish me well. I replied, incautiously, that he was fortunate to preside in an organisation which dealt with economics while I must do so in one which dealt with politics. "Have you not noticed," he inquired, "that an issue remains economic so long as everybody agrees, but that as soon as they disagree it becomes political?"

Wiser heads and fuller stomachs in Britain will greet the publication of the American study on the nonchalance of a fine judge of bloodstock seeing his hunch backed by the formbook. The accumulation of information helps reassurance, but prior prejudice framed by instinct is always a better guide. How could confections as delicious as M. Suchard's elixirs be anything other than beneficial? Experiences that exquisite, whether at the table, or the boudoir, create such a sense of well-being that they act more effectively than anything from the apothecary.

It is too much to expect that a straitened public purse might allow chocolate on prescription much as, in more enlightened days, expectant mothers could claim a half of milk stout. However a vigorous campaign from the authorities to hymn the prophylactic virtues of Bordeaux and Bourgogne is the least we might expect. A Praline and a pitcher

should be a welcome guest. For many years the path to prominence for the men in white coats was a prime one. Scientists anxious to emerge from behind their Bunsen burners and into the limelight did so most effectively by revealing the existence of life-threatening compounds lurking in hitherto innocent victuals. Butter was framed as a new serial killer. To tuck into a marbled steak was to gamble with the grim reaper more surely than if one were swallowing razor blades. But now comes news that two of the treats hitherto thought most wicked have been found by scientists to be, in every sense, life-enhancing.

Red wine and chocolate — the seducer's tools and the consolation of those crossed in love — have always influenced the operations of the heart. Now scientists believe they are also good for the arteries. Writing in *The Lancet*, researchers have revealed the existence of a substance in both which, far from straining the veins, acts on them with all the cleansing vigour of bran on other bits of internal piping. It is deliciously ironic that the research should come from California, the America's decaffeinated zone, where the salads are more skimpily dressed than the lifeguards of *Baywatch*. The raising of the bon-vivants' banner in the precincts of the University of California is a victory as complete as Bruce's at Bannockburn.

Although it is a defeat for puritanism, the

## Churchill's real vision of Europe

From Professor Lord Balfour, FBA

Sir, In your admirable leading article on Churchill's 1946 Zurich speech (September 18) you said that his conclusion on Britain's future role in Europe was "reasonably clear". Surely it is.

It is worth saying this since one still finds people claiming Churchill as a supporter of Britain being part of a federal European system ("Tory turmoil over Europe erupts again", later editions, September 19). Neither at Zurich nor later did he envisage such a future for this country, and detailed evidence beyond Zurich is available to prove this point.

Your leading article rather dismissed continuing arguments over where Churchill stood on this issue. As long as he is misrepresented in some quarters as favouring British membership of a "United States of Europe" professional historians are bound to put the record straight, as I did in my essay *Churchill and Europe*, included in *Churchill by Robert Blake and Wm Roger Lewis* (Oxford University Press, 1993), and again in my recent book *Britain and European Union: Dialogue of the Deaf* (Macmillan, September 1966).

Yours truly,  
BELOFF,  
House of Lords.  
September 19.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Is it not ironic that the letter from Sir Edward Heath and his dwindling allies, calling in aid "Churchill's Zurich vision" was addressed to *The Independent*, given that it was written on the very day that your leading article finally exploded the oft-repeated myth that Churchill in 1946 called for Britain to submerge itself in Europe?

The signatories fall back on such wholly bogus arguments to keep alive the self-delusion dream, especially beloved by former Foreign Secretaries and repeated in this latest letter, that Britain should continue to strive for "leadership of Europe". Some hope if their opponents (including Churchill) are to be dubbed "little Englanders", they might more accurately be described as "Eurochauvinists".

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH HARRIS,  
House of Lords.  
September 19.

From Mr Derek J. Pearmund

Sir, "Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders," state the Tory grandees in their letter to *The Independent* today.

Neither have they been "little Europeans". Our nation is, and always has been, a nation of international, global traders, and our greatest patriots have always recognised that.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK J. PEARMUND,  
Timbers,  
Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey.  
September 19.

From Mr Colin Bullen

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Although it is a defeat for puritanism, the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Empty caskets' in the Welsh valleys

From the Reverend Kevin Watson

Sir, John Wesley spoke no Welsh; hence his preaching in the Principality was far less effective than that of his contemporary, Hywel Harris. Consequently, 18th-century Welsh enthusiasm focused on Harris's Calvinism. In changing Welsh society, Harris's theology eventually proved short-lived than Wesley's.

All forms of dissent, religious or otherwise, run the gauntlet of social and cultural change. Whether change comes through language, family, class, economics or religion itself, all these factors have contributed to the decline of nonconformist Christian influence in Wales ("Chapels in the valleys of tears", Simon Jenkins, September 7). Welsh nonconformist piety is not without issue in the wider world, but too many of its "caskets" lie empty and vulnerable.

If Simon Jenkins seeks additional candidates for attention, I would nominate the Swansons area. The three-night blitz in February 1941 and post-war rehousing broke up old neighbourhoods, with their myriad loyalties, and have left chapels and their burial grounds crumbling and often vandalised around the city centre. Six miles westward, chapels at Loughor and Bwlchymynnyd were the midwives of the last Welsh evangelical revival 92 years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN WATSON,  
271 Pentregron Road,  
Gendros, Swansea.  
September 17.

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Sir, Your readers should be aware that this commission is co-ordinating the creation of a basic record of all Nonconformist buildings in Wales and an intensive photographic or drawn survey of those considered to be of particular architectural, historic or religious significance.

This work is being taken forward in close co-operation with Cadw (the National Library of Wales, the Board of

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association has warned that an airframe failure at high altitude would cause "an ecological catastrophe". Consignments of this highly toxic fuel have already been flown from Carlisle to Switzerland, presumably following a flight path across England.

In the tenth anniversary year of the Chernobyl accident, surely the IAEA should honour its role as watchdog for nuclear safety rather than compromise standards for commercial reasons.

Yours faithfully,  
MADELINE HAIGH,  
The Lodge, New Hall,  
Batholomew Street West,  
Exeter, Devon.  
September 17.

### Plutonium trade

From Mrs Madeline Haigh

Sir, Mr Llew Smith, MP (letter, September 11), is right to highlight the hazards of air shipment of plutonium.

At last week's meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency moves to increase safety standards for air transport of mixed oxide fuel (MOX) were rejected as a result of resistance from countries with heavy commercial interests in the nuclear industry, such as the UK, France, Germany and Japan. This means reprocessed nuclear fuel, a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide, will continue to be flown in containers which withstand impacts of no more than 30mph.

Meanwhile, it is within the power of the civil courts to intervene by means of injunctive orders, disobedience of which could lead to imprisonment. Indeed, they have done so in the past.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN D. DONALDSON,  
House of Lords.  
September 18.

### Law on 'stalking'

From Lord Donaldson of Lymington

Sir, The urgent need for a specific criminal offence of "stalking", notwithstanding the problems of definition, has been undermined by the recent failure of a prosecution for affray and causing grievous bodily harm with intent (letter, September 18).

Meanwhile, it is within the power of the civil courts to intervene by means of injunctive orders, disobedience of which could lead to imprisonment. Indeed, they have done so in the past.

I also told him I had met "Susan Kemp", one of the most important protagonists (see my earlier letter, August 22), and that I am convinced she is who the book says she is, and that being the case, that the operation must have taken place.

None of this is contained in Mr Roberts's review. He does acknowledge, as I explained in my earlier letter, that I and my colleagues have offered a reward of £20,000 to anyone who can, on factual evidence, prove OPJB did not take place. Curiously enough, he does not believe that any one will ever win it.

Yours faithfully,  
MILTON SHULMAN,  
51 Eaton Square, SW1.  
September 14.

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## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
September 19: The Princess Royal this morning attended the Sixth Session of the Residential Meeting of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at Christ's College, Cambridge, and was received by Mr Michael Marshall (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
September 19: The Prince of Wales today attended the final morning of the Seminar organised by His Royal Highness's Business and the Environment programme at Madingley Hall, Cambridge.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust, this afternoon visited St Barnabas Press, St Barnabas Street, Cambridge, set up with help from the Trust, met artists working at the design studio, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Cowden).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, later took part in a discussion with chairmen and volunteers from the Trusts at the

Cambridge Evening News, Windmill Road, Milton, Cambridge, after which The Prince of Wales visited the newsroom and officially opened the new premises.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and delivered the Soil Association's Lady Eve Balfour Memorial Lecture at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London.

**YORK HOUSE**

September 19: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning visited the Marazion Lifeboat Station, Castle House, St Michael's Mount, Marazion, Cornwall and was met on his arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall (Lady Mary Holborow).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Lizard Lifeboat Station, Kilcooden Cove, Lizard, and later visited the Falmouth Lifeboat Station, Tinner's Walk, Port Pender, Falmouth.

The Duke later visited the Fowey Lifeboat Station, Perrills Yard, Fowey, Cornwall.

## Highest scoring batsman is 76 and 117,876 not out

### Pensioner prepares for his 64th season

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE world's most prolific batsman ended his 63rd season yesterday with a knock at Lord's. Jack Hyams, a retired pet shop owner now aged 76, has been punishing bowlers since 1934, and this season notched up his 170th century at senior club level.

The sprightly pensioner from New Barnet, Hertfordshire, has now racked up nearly 118,000 runs, making him by far the biggest rungeter in the history of cricket. Yet after scoring tons in 58 successive seasons and breaking almost every record in the book, he still has no intention of hanging up his bat.

Despite an arduous season playing for Bonsbury in the Middlesex County League and Cheshunt in the Hertfordshire League he turned out yesterday for the Cross Arrows, a team of ex-professionals and former MCC coaches at Lord's.

"I'm almost certainly the oldest man to play there," said Jack. "I'll play while I'm still fit and I hope to be going strong again next season. I haven't lost my appetite for the game or for scoring runs."

Jack, who in earlier days played three times for the MCC, achieved his 170th century earlier this year — a precise 100 not out — while playing for Bonsbury against Edmonton.

"I hadn't scored a century since 1991 when I was 71," he said. "I thought I'd never get another because I get very tired when I reach the 90s. It's not just running my runs, but I have to run those of the chap at the other end as well. Getting that ton has given me a new lease of life."

Jack began his love affair with the game as an eight year old living a ball's throw from Kennington Oval.

He clocked up 20 centuries before the war and afterwards played top-class cricket in the Yorkshire and Birmingham leagues, as well as for the MCC, taking the field against legends including Lock, Laker, Trueman, Pocock, Subba Row, Arnold and the fearsome Wes Hall.

"Hall was the fastest bowler I've ever faced," Mr Hyams said. "I was 46, playing for West Bromwich, and Hall was in his prime. Some-



Jack Hyams, who has been batting since 1934, had a knock at Lord's yesterday to end a year in which he scored his 170th century at senior club level.

how we managed to put on 100 for the first wicket and Wes didn't bowl me one bouncer. Afterwards I asked him why. He said it was because he'd seen my grey hair."

In later years, Jack has played most of his cricket for Stoics, the Forty Club, London Counties, the wandering Magdala club, the Mounted Police Cricket Club and Cockfosters.

He meticulously logs every single and his record-breaking career aggregate (before yesterday) of 117,876 runs comfortably beats the pre-

viously known best, 87,000 by E.M. Grace, W.G.'s brother.

Jack Hyams' record of centuries in seven successive decades beats Jack Hobbs' ton-gathering career spanning five decades, though Hobbs scored more centuries, a total of 244 in all his matches. Jack Hyams also scored at least one century every season from 1934 to 1991 and at least 1,000 runs each year from 1934 to 1994.

For the record, his batting average over 63 years is 40.6. His 1,283 wickets have come at a bowing average of 20.05; he has scored 29 centuries

since the age of 50; and his most runs in a season was 4,328, in 1953.

His highest score was 199 not out in an RAF match in Oxfordshire in 1944 and his best bowling feat was a hat-trick with the first three balls of the innings for the Forty Club against a South of England Select XI when he was aged 62.

Mr Hyams' extraordinary career was the subject of an article in *Wisden's Cricketer* Monthly five years ago, and this year's century might qualify him for an updating paragraph or two.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Sir George Robey, comedian, London, 1899; Upton Sinclair, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1878; Stevie Smith (pseudonym of Florence Smith, poet, Hull, 1902; Kenneth More, actor, Gerrards Cross, 1914.

**DEATHS:** Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, executed, Dublin, 1803; Jacob Grimm, philologist and collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1863; Jean Stéphens, Jarveypana, Finland, 1957.

**Salisbury Cathedral** was consecrated, 1258.

Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Seville with a fleet of five small ships in an attempt to circumnavigate the world, 1519.

British, French and Turkish forces defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma in the Crimea, 1854.

Six Victoria Crosses were awarded.

**Royal College of Radiologists** Dr M.J. Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Hall was in his prime. Some-

### Dinners

#### HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner given last night by Her Majesty's Government in Admiralty House in honour of Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of Nato.

#### Glaziers' Company

Mr P.G. Lowe, Master of the Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, with the Wardens received members of the court and their guests at the St Matthew's Day Quarter Court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall.

The Earl of Atrium, Brigadier J. Wilkes and the Masters of the Plumbers' and Fitters' and Loriners' Companies were among the guests.

**Royal College of Radiologists** Dr M.J. Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and

### Latest wills

Richard Thomas Masterman, of Suncombe, Holsworthy, Devon, left estate valued at £4,598,676 net.

Georgina Mary Morley, of Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,188,610 net.

Phyllis Mary Hindle, of Sneyd Park, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,012,477 net.

Thomas Douglas Davies, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,062,477 net.

Frederick Denison Maurice Hockings, of Carlyn Bay, St Austell, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,011,461 net.

He left £25,000 each to the Bassetts' Trusts of the Ferme Club, PD54; St Francis Home for Families, Newquay, WPF 05.

Philip Henry Eliot, of Penzance, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,090,459 net.

David Meuring Morgan, of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, left estate valued at £1,794,766 net.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr T.F. Fagan and Miss C.E. Hodge**  
The engagement is announced between Tim, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Fagan, of Sauls Farm, Buckinghamshire, and Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hodge, of Ballingdon Hall, Suffolk.

**Mr M.N. Garnett and Miss H.F. Bartlett**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Captain and Mrs Michael Garnett, of South Brent, Devon, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bartlett, of Great Tre, Essex.

**Mr D.V. Geller and Miss L.M.A. Bath**  
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan Geller, of Stamford, Middlesex, and Isabel Maura Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfred Bath, of Stamford, Middlesex.

**Mr A.G.H. Laird and Miss R.E. Lowry**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 14, at the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex. Of Mr Alistair Laird, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Pujols, France, to Miss Ruth Lowry, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Lowry, of Coggeshall. The Rev Bill Buckley, of St Martin's Tynehead, Edinburgh, officiated.

**Mr T.D. Nichols and Miss L.C. Meacock**  
The engagement is announced between Tom, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Nichols, of Shepshed, Coggeshall, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ashley Meacock, of Faversham, Marsh, Kent.

**Mr T.O. Sommerville and Miss T.E. Stringer**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Per A. Petersson, of Mora, Sweden, and Tara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Stringer, of Crawley, West Sussex.

**Mr A.H. Widgery and Mrs S.L. Dwyer**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew Widgery, of Godalming, Surrey, and Sarah Dwyer, nee Griffin, of Bowhead Green, Surrey.

**Marriages**

**Mr A.J. Given and Miss E.L. Hartley**  
The marriage took place on September 7, at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Sheldfield, between Andrew Given and Elizabeth Hartley, The Rev Geoffrey Morell officiated.

**Mr G.C. Hatherley and Miss A.G.C. Hatherley**

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 14, at the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex. Of Mr Alistair Laird, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Pujols, France, to Miss Ruth Lowry, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Lowry, of Coggeshall. The Rev Bill Buckley, of St Martin's Tynehead, Edinburgh, officiated.

**The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Aishlinn Kane and Alicia Eaton. Mr Douglas Bewsher was best man.**

**The reception was held at the Coach House, Great Saling and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.**

**Mr S.E.J. Riley and Miss G.J.M. Kenny**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 14, at the Priory Church of St Laurence, Blackmore, Essex. Of Mr Simon Riley, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Riley, of Blackmore, Essex, to Miss Gillian Kenny, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kenny, of Hutton, Essex. The Rev Ivy Riley officiated.

**The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Timothy Riley was best man.**

## Memorial services

### Viscount Bearsted

A memorial service for Viscount Bearsted was held yesterday at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood. Rabbi John Rayner officiated and the Hon L.H.L. "Tim" Cohen, brother-in-law, gave an address.

The Hon Niamh, the Hon Juliet, the Hon Harry, Natasha, Emily, Sophie and Benjamin Samuel, grandchildren, sang *The Bing-a-Long Song* by their grandfather. Among others present were Nira Viscountess Bearsted (widow), Viscount and Dr Viscount Bearsted and their son and daughter-in-law, the Hon Eugene Samuel (grandson), the Hon A.G. and Mrs Samuel (grandson and daughter-in-law), the Hon Robert, Mr and Mrs Robert Waley-Cohen and other members of the family.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, the Right Rev J.K. Cavell (representing Salisbury Diocese), the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, the Right Rev Dennis Hawker, the Right Rev Edward Roberts, the Right Rev M.A.P. Wood, the Provost of Bradford, the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, the Archdeacon of Bradford and Canon Peter Brett (also representing the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury) were robed and in procession.

### Luncheon

**American Chamber of Commerce (UK)**

Sir Brian Gowell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK), presided at a luncheon held yesterday at One Whitehall Place in honour of Mr Jerry Greenwald, Chairman and President of the Fulbright Commission, welcomed the guests.

The Right Rev Ross Hook

The Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by the Right Rev Frank Sargeant, Bishop of Lambeth.

ben, at a memorial service for the Right Rev Ross Hook held yesterday at St Luke's, Sydney Street, SW3. The Rev Derek Watson officiated.

Mr Philip Hook, son, and Mr and Mrs Ian Zachary, son-in-law and daughter, gave readings. The Right Rev R.D. Say gave an address and the Right Rev Lord Runcie pronounced the blessing.

Mrs Angelique Hook, daughter-in-law, sang an aria and a bugler from the Royal Marines Band sounded *Last Post* and *Réveille*.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, the Right Rev J.K. Cavell (representing Salisbury Diocese), the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, the Right Rev Dennis Hawker, the Right Rev Edward Roberts, the Right Rev M.A.P. Wood, the Provost of Bradford, the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, the Archdeacon of Bradford and Canon Peter Brett (also representing the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury) were robed and in procession.

### Reception

**Fulbright Commission**

A reception was held last night at the American Embassy in honour of American Fulbright Scholars at the start of their year in the United Kingdom. Mr Robin Berrington, Cultural Attaché at the embassy and Chairman of the Fulbright Commission, welcomed the guests.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

### IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

**H.M.S. FITTLETON** — On this day in 1996, at Poole Harbour, Dorset, the 10th widow of Eric Thomas, beloved husband of Joann, Bob and Lester, died peacefully after a long illness, at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Poole.

Funeral arrangements to be announced. No flowers, please, but donations, if desired, to the Clare House Cancer Research Fund, St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lewrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26 0ZC.

**PAUL** — Doctor Henry (Ahab) Paul, passed away at Caversham, Reading, on Tuesday 17th September 1996. Beloved husband of Judith, and deeply loved father of Sally, Lucy and William, especially at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, on Tuesday 24th September at 2.20pm.

Family flowers only. Donations to C10 Patient Comfort Fund, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

**JOHNSTON** — Bill, on September 17th, 1996, died peacefully at his home in Canterbury. Richard, The Rediff, Heston, G.C., died peacefully at his home in Heston, Middlesex, on September 17th, 1996. Beloved husband of Helen and father of Helen, Richard, and Helen. Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, on Tuesday 24th September at 2.20pm.

Family flowers only. Donations to C10 Patient Comfort Fund, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

**KALISHER** — Michael David Kalisher, 68, died peacefully at his home in Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, on September 18th, 1996. Beloved husband of Helen and father of Justine, Michael and Daniel. Michael was a retired teacher and Helen a former nurse. Memorial Service at Howard's Funeral Services, 468 St Leonards Road, Hastings, TN3 2AL, tel: (01273) 651718.

**KOOGAARD** — Archie. See Beauman.

**LEWIS** — Maureen, 83, died peacefully at home in Folkestone, Kent, on September 18th, 1996. Beloved wife of Dennis, and mother of Dennis, Dennis



## NEWS

## Runaway bishop has son of 15

The Roman Catholic Church faced renewed controversy with the revelation that its runaway bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, has a 15-year-old son.

The boy, Kevin, was born after Bishop Wright had an affair with Joanne Whibley, now living in Polegate, East Sussex. The Bishop, then a priest, met Miss Whibley when he was instructing her in the Roman Catholic faith after she became engaged to a Catholic.

Page 1

## Maxwell trial halted by judge

The Government will face renewed pressure to review trial by jury in complex fraud cases after a judge halted the second Maxwell trial. Kevin Maxwell walked free after Mr Justice Buckley blocked a second trial on charges relating to the collapse of his father's media empire.

Pages 1, 2, 3

## Tories at war

The Tory party is again caught up in a ferocious war over Europe after its leading Euro-sceptics turned on the grandees who warned John Major that he must keep open the option of joining a single currency.

Pages 1, 10

## More crime

Crime in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order.

Page 2

## Tuition fees threat

Six universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cuts in higher education in November's Budget, said vice-chancellors.

Page 3

## Prince's warning

The Prince of Wales said that intensive agriculture could be undermining health. The hidden costs would burden future generations and deficiencies in intensively produced food might rob people of intelligence.

Page 5

## Lucan 'is dead'

A self-confessed thief who claims to be a former friend of Lord Lucan told a jury that the missing peer was dead.

Page 5

## Artistic divide

The precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries: 1900 is the divide.

Page 6

## Lipstick on the chain-gang

For her first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a tube of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates. Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix, Arizona, shuffled off a bus onto the scorching streets to pick up litter.

Page 15



European Solheim Cup women golfers watch the Red Arrows fly over Chepstow before their tournament with the US. Page 44

## BUSINESS

**Pensions:** The Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion industry in an attempt to restore consumer confidence following the mis-selling scandals.

Page 23

**Bank chief:** Lloyds TSB is expected to announce the appointment of Peter Elwood as new chief executive with Sir Brian Pitman becoming chairman.

Page 44

**Copper losses:** Sumitomo has revealed that losses on rogue copper deals total £1.7 billion, nearly 50 per cent higher than previously expected.

Page 23

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 rose 18.6 to 1743.4. The pound was 0.3 down at 85.9 after falling from \$1.5608 to £1.5510 and from DM 2.3545 to DM 2.3481.

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**Racing:** Brave Montgomerie became the first Scottish-trained winner for 12 years at Ayr's Western meeting and raised hopes of a home victory in the Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup.

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## SPORT

**Cricket:** Leicestershire dismissed Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points and steal a march over their rivals for the county championship.

Page 44

**Football:** Manchester City are still without a manager after Dave Bassett had a last-minute change of heart and decided to stay with Crystal Palace.

Page 44

**Golf:** Home advantage may be sufficient to tip the Solheim Cup Europe's way against the United States at St Pierre, Chepstow, over the next three days.

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**Racing:** Brave Montgomerie became the first Scottish-trained winner for 12 years at Ayr's Western meeting and raised hopes of a home victory in the Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup.

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**Pop pigs:** After a gruesome start to their career, the Longpigs at last have a single out on Monday, an album recorded, and everything to play for.

Page 32

**Midsummer dream ticket:** Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — and at half the price of Covent Garden.

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**Drama queen:** Balzac's tender story of misplaced love comes to the stage in Neil Bartlett's exotic fantasy version, *Sarrasine*.

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**Elgar orgy:** How the conductor Richard Hickox is preparing for a long weekend of high drama at the Barbican in London with the three great oratorios of Edward Elgar.

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**Wading cynical:** The indomitable Ruby Wax attends a Versace show and shares her thoughts on supermodels, fashion photographers and Mickey Rourke.

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**New Labour, new patron:** Bob Gavron is engagingly quirky, extremely wealthy and despite his high profile for Mrs Thatcher, has donated £500,000 to the party led by Tony Blair: a man he "likes and trusts".

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**Loving a priest:** Clelia Luro married Argentinian Roman Catholic bishop Jerónimo Podestá and has now told the story of the early days of their love.

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## EDUCATION

**Second-class system:** Should the traditional university degree classifications be modernised to reflect more accurately graduates' achievements and the lack of them?

Page 35

**Exam blues:** Modular A levels are devaluing the education system, argues Susan Elkin.

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## OBITUARIES

**Canon G.B. Bentley:** moral theologian; Professor Nicholas Wahl, political scientist; **Tommy Ives**, Labour Party agent.

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## LETTERS

Churchill's vision of Europe; chapel heritage; future of Naval College; plutonium trade; law on 'stalking'; Prince at Cambridge; church music.

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## THE PAPERS

The constant French fear with regard to a "German Europe" — in economic as well as political matters — is not completely unjustified. In the current negotiations, is France assured that the European economy will not be stifled by the German obsession with stability?

— *Le Monde*

## NOON TODAY

**GENERAL:** England and Wales will be rather cloudy in all areas but with brighter intervals and sunshine in more sheltered northern and western parts. In the south, thicker cloud is likely with rain, initially coastal, edging north to the Thames by evening.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there will be some mistiness in the north-east and islands. The east will be rather cloudy and showers may push through the Forth Clyde valley at times. In the west it will be bright with some sunshine and for the most part dry.

**WIND:** In Scotland and Northern Ireland, mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals. Winds moderate or fresh, easterly. Cool. Max 17C (63F).

In Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland: mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals. Winds moderate, east or northeast. Mild. Max 17C (61F).

**WATER:** In Scotland, Ireland: mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals. Winds moderate, east or northeast. Mild. Max 17C (61F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: unsettled, rain or showers in south and east. Brighter in the west.

— *AA ROADWATCH*

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London &amp; SE traffic, roadworks

London & SE traffic, roadworks</

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

## Lloyds TSB expected to name Ellwood as chief



Ellwood: job cuts ahead

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE board of Lloyds TSB Group is expected to announce today that Peter Ellwood will be the new chief executive of the bank. Sir Brian Piuma, the current chief executive, will become chairman.

Mr Ellwood became deputy group chief executive and chief executive of retail financial services on December 28 last year, when Lloyds and TSB merged to become Britain's second-largest bank, with 3,000 branches.

When the merger was announced last October, Mr Ellwood, who is 53, was seen as the most likely successor

to Sir Brian, who will be 65 in December. However, the delay in making the final decision had led City analysts to suggest that the succession might not be as smooth as first appeared a year ago. The other internal front runner was Alan Moore, 60, also a deputy group chief executive and treasurer, who has wider international banking experience than Mr Ellwood, having worked in the Middle East, and comes from a corporate and treasury background, rather than retail banking.

Sir Brian earned £627,362 last year, and, to attract an international banker from an investment bank,

Lloyds TSB would have had to pay £1 million a year.

Mr Ellwood began his career with Barclays Bank in 1961 and ran Barclaycard, its credit card operation, in the eighties, at the height of its profitability, and before a large number of imitators entered the market. He moved to TSB in 1989 to become chief executive.

Last year TSB had been thought ready to buy a building society, but Mr Ellwood decided that those in the market to be bought were too expensive. However, he was aware that the conversion of the Halifax Building Society to a bank next year

and the takeover of National & Provincial by Abbey National would mean that TSB would no longer be in the top six banks.

The Lloyds/TSB merger propelled Lloyds up the banking league. Mr Ellwood will no doubt have noticed the career opportunity for himself.

In recent months, City insiders have suggested that Mr Ellwood's background lacked international experience, but, in a round of dinners with the 22 members of the board, he has impressed.

As chief executive of the larger group, he will have to oversee job cuts and branch closures. The bank has

already announced the closure of 150 branches.

Sir Brian is the longest-serving chief executive of the Big Four banks, having taken the reins in 1983. He began his career with Lloyds Bank in Cheltenham in 1952 and crowned it last year with the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, in August, and the announcement of the merger with TSB to form the second-largest bank after HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland.

Sir Robin Ibbotson is retiring as chairman. He is 70, and his continuation in office would have required special approval by shareholders.

## OFT starts personal pensions inquiry

BY ADAM JONES

THE Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion-a-year personal pensions industry in a bid to restore confidence after the mis-selling scandals.

The inquiry, which will report in the first half of next year, aims to draw a line under recent controversies, presenting a positive vision of how personal pensions can evolve in the next century. It will study all aspects of how pensions are bought, sold and regulated, targeting what the OFT refers to as "innate weaknesses" in the system. These include the failure to provide satisfactory arrangements for women and workers with "stop-start" careers, such as the self-employed.

The inquiry will be chaired by Geoffrey Horton, OFT's director of consumer affairs. He said: "People are having to become more responsible for the provision of their income in old age. There have been concerns in the recent past about aspects of the personal pensions market."

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "People are now more worried about living too long to provide a comfortable retirement, than they are about dying early. Our research will cover consumer experience and the structure and regulation of the industry to see what lessons can be learnt from the past."

An estimated 500,000 people were mis-sold pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They were persuaded to leave efficient company schemes for personal pensions that would not provide a viable income in retirement.

A review of the scandal by the Personal Investment Authority has been ongoing for almost three years, attracting criticism for being slow to compensate investors. Total compensation could be as much as £4 billion.

Mr Horton admitted there were mis-selling issues still to be resolved but said the OFT's involvement will not usurp the existing review. The OFT team will consult industry, consumer groups, academics and regulators, and invite input from the public. It is not yet clear whether the report and its recommendations will be aimed at the Government, business or consumer.

## Consumer demand boosts rate-rise call

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor's resistance to Bank of England demands for higher interest rates received another knock yesterday with more evidence of strong consumer demand for credit in August as well as a surge in M4 broad money supply above the Government's monitoring range.

Kenneth Clarke meets Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, on Monday to discuss interest rates in the knowledge that the Bank would like to see rates raised at least a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The Building Societies Association reported gross advances of mortgage money of £3.8 billion in August, down on £4.1 billion in July. Net advances rose to £1.35 billion from £1.23 billion in July.

Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said: "Allowing for the fact that the National & Provincial left the sector in



Pizza the action: Luke Johnson, chairman of Pizza Express, with David Page, chief executive, and Hugh Osmond, director. The year-end pre-tax profits came out at £10.2 million (£6.64 million). A 2p final dividend, due on November 4, makes a 2.7p total (2.2p)

## Signet fails to agree jewellery firms deal

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIGNET yesterday called off negotiations with Apax Partners, the venture capital firm that was offering £280 million for its H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery businesses.

The two sides failed to agree terms for the transfer of property leases. Under the deal offered by Apax, which was funding a buyout by the management of the two jewellery chains, Signet would have had to compensate Apax £20 for each of the 600 leases it did not deliver.

It is understood that some landlords were unhappy about leases being transferred to venture capital company. There was also concern within Signet about retaining contingent liability. It has become a major issue since Sears found itself with 379 shoe shops returned to it after Faia, the company that had bought them, collapsed.

Separate Bank of England figures showed M4 money supply jumping 0.9 per cent in August, taking its annual growth rate to 9.4 per cent.

## Wm Morrison growth to create 3,200 jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MORE THAN 3,200 full and part-time jobs are to be created in a £100 million expansion programme by Wm Morrison, the supermarket chain based at Bradford.

The company will open superstores at Sunderland, Northampton, Shef-

field, Warrington, Cheshire. It announced the move yesterday along with pre-tax profits for the half year of £55.2 million, 8 per cent up on last year. Sales figures were disappointing. Like-for-like sales in the half year were up 3.5 per cent excluding petrol. Including petrol, they were up 1.9 per cent. In the first seven weeks of the year, half the increase slowed to just

increased from 0.275p per share to 0.325p, payable on November 4. In the half year to August 4 the company's turnover exceeded £1 billion for the first time, to reach £1,092.8 billion, an increase of 9.3 per cent.

The new jobs will boost Wm Morrison's 27,000-strong workforce in its current 81 stores by 12 per cent. About 450 jobs will be created at each new

at Wm Morrison's distribution centre in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, will grow by 100 with the construction of a new frozen food depot.

Refurbishments, creating about 75 jobs each, will take place at Carlisle and Wellington in Cumbria, Beverley in North Yorkshire, Bishop Auckland in Durham, Newark in Nottinghamshire, Stamford in Lincolnshire

## Sumitomo to sue Hamanaka over \$2.6bn loss

BY ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND OLIVER AUGUST

SUMITOMO, the Japanese trading group, has revealed that losses from rogue copper deals have soared to \$2.6 billion from the \$1.8 billion originally estimated. The company also said it would pursue action against Yasuo Hamanaka, the man it holds

responsible for the losses.

The group said it had found new uncovered copper positions when auditing dealings by Mr Hamanaka. Internal investigations had revealed that unauthorised transactions beginning in 1985 were allegedly hidden by Mr Hamanaka through deception and their "extraordinary complexity".

Sumitomo said: "Mr Hamanaka was able to avoid detection by the company over a long period of time by falsifying documents, forging signatures and destroying business records."

The group liquidated Mr Hamanaka's copper positions over the summer, which led to the huge losses. All open positions have now been closed and the company said it did not expect to see further losses. Sumitomo also ar-

## BUSINESS TODAY

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3974.3	(+18.6)
Yield	3.92%	
SSE A All share	131.1	(+0.22)
Nikkei 225	21,322.85	(+19.10)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5852.95	(-24.41)*
S&P Composite	680.57	(-0.90)*

## US RATE

Federal Funds	5.14%	(+1.14)
Long Bond	9.62%	(+0.70)
Yield	7.075*	(7.02%)

## LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5.14%	(5.07%)
Libor long gilt futures (2001)	10.71*	(10.71*)

## STERLING

New York:	1.5518*	(1.5506)
London:	1.5508	(1.5505)
S. DM	2.3480	(2.3257)
FFr	7.5919	(6.0190)
SFr	1.9228	(1.9181)
Yen	169.47	(170.20)
£ Index	85.9	(86.2)

## US DOLLAR

DM	1.5147*	(1.5095)
FFr	5.1522*	(5.1410)
SFr	1.2435*	(1.2420)
Yen	109.37	(109.20)
£ Index	97.0	(96.8)

Tokyo close Yen 169.38

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$31.45	(\$21.75)
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## GOLD

London close	\$382.85	(\$383.35)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Tory and Labour vows under fire

BOTH Conservative and Labour promises to cut taxes are incompatible with restoring the public finances to health without severe cuts in public spending, according to research by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, commissioned by Channel 4 News (Janet Bush writes).

Paul Doro, the chief economist of ITEM, said: "Voters ought to treat promises of tax cuts from both parties with the highest degree of scepticism."

Beware politicians, page 27

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# CBI urges action to strengthen manufacturing

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE manufacturing industry is still weak, according to new figures today from the Confederation of British Industry, which is calling on employers to act to boost productivity growth. While export demand improved slightly over the past month, demand overall is unchanged, and is falling, the CBI figures show.

Although Government ministers continue to claim steady economic recovery, the latest CBI monthly industrial trends survey shows that manufacturing is sluggish. The find-

ings of a sample of more than 1,200 manufacturing firms in September suggest that production industries are still underperforming other areas of the economy.

A net balance of 9 per cent of companies sampled say today that their order books are below normal. This compares with 10 per cent in August and 22 per cent in the CBI's last quarterly survey in July.

CBI analysts point out that the new figure is the least negative so far this year, but accept that order books have

been below normal for 12 months. Export orders improved slightly, though are still falling. A net negative balance of 11 per cent of companies said orders were below normal, which is an improvement on the minus 14 per cent figure for August. But manufacturers expect prices overall to remain unchanged for the next four months, confirming a flat trend in prices since July.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, says: "The improvement in demand seen over the past few months is encouraging, although manufacturers continue to be hampered by weak exports." Stable price expectations are likely to exert a downward pressure on inflation, he says.

The CBI's latest industrial figures come as it urges business to take the opportunity of steady pay rises to boost productivity. The CBI's governing council at its monthly meeting on Wednesday approved its annual pay and performance presentation, which argues that companies must seize the chance of improving competitiveness.

CBI leaders will now present their case on pay in eight regional meetings. Adair Turner, the CBI Director-General, said yesterday: "Although the UK recovery remains firmly on track, we need to improve still further our competitive position."

## Hambros pressured for sell-off decision

By JASON NISSE

REGENT PACIFIC, the Hong Kong fund that has bought a 3 per cent stake in Hambros, has given the merchant bank until today to accept its proposals for a £200 million sell-off of Hambros's controlling stakes in Hambros Countrywide and Hambros Insurance Services.

Jim Mellion, chief executive of Regent, has written to Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros, threatening to take action to oust the bank's management unless it acts on Regent's demands. Sir

Chips is unlikely to respond. He agrees that Hambros should streamline, but he sees great value in holding the Countrywide stake in particular.

Mr Mellion said that if Hambros ignored his advice he would consider canvassing other shareholders about a change of management. Selling either the Countrywide or Insurance Services stakes to a single buyer would prompt a bid for either of the independently quoted companies.



Donald Lewin, Clinton Cards chairman, yesterday

## Sales boost on the cards

CLINTON CARDS, the specialist retailer of greeting cards, saw an 11.1 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the first five weeks of the second half of the financial year, auguring well for the Christmas trading period.

Yesterday the company said seasonal first-half losses were reduced to £1.5 million before tax from £1.8 million in the six months to August 4. Losses were 8.15p a share (10.68p loss). The interim dividend is 1.35p from 1.75p.

## BA closes Contract Handling operation

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE first 750 victims of the £1 billion restructuring of British Airways learnt their fate yesterday when the airline announced the closure of its loss-making ground handling unit at Heathrow.

British Airways Contract Handling provides ticketing, check-in, cargo, loading, ramp handling and lost baggage facilities for 25 rival airlines who use Heathrow's Terminals 2 and 3.

But fierce competition from eight other private contract handling agents has meant the division has been consistently losing money. It is believed to have lost up to £5 million over the past three years.

A small number of staff will be transferred to Terminal 4, where they will provide service to British Mediterranean, Canadian and BA's alliance partner airlines. The remainder will be made redundant or offered retraining and redeployment. The unit will close formally on March 31.

Robert Ayling, chief executive, wants to reduce existing staff levels by 5,000 over the next 18 months.

□ Servisair, the airport services group, has entered a joint venture with Air France to run the airline's aircraft and passenger handling operations at Heathrow. Servisair, which will own a 49 per cent stake in the venture, also announced half-year pre-tax profits of £26.000 (£1.45 million). Earnings were 1.65p a share (2.65p loss). The interim dividend is 1.05p (1.4p), due on November 27.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### European victory for societies' tax claim

A DECISION by the European Commission for Human Rights may mean that the Leeds Building Society, the Yorkshire Building Society and the National & Provincial, can claim back at least £100 million in overpaid tax. The trio are not likely to receive the money before 1998, as their claim must now go before the European Court of Human Rights for a final decision. The Court is, however, likely to follow the opinion of the Commission. It is possible that the societies may be joined by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which had earlier withdrawn from the proceedings.

As revealed by The Times yesterday, the Commission has concluded that the UK Government denied the societies the right a fair hearing over a double taxation case. The row dates back to a 1986 change in the method of collecting income tax on savers' interest, which the societies said had resulted in the double tax charge. The Leeds is now part of the Halifax and N&P has been acquired by Abbey National.

### Glaxo plans global split

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals company, announced a reorganisation yesterday that will separate it into five geographic business regions: Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Japan, and Latin and North America. The decentralised structure, it said, recognises the increasingly global nature of the drugs business and will lead to greater regional autonomy. Each region will have its own director, all of whom will be members of Glaxo's executive committee, whose chairman is Sir Richard Sykes.

### Sherwood hits new low

SHARES of Sherwood Group dropped 4.5p yesterday, to a new low of 59p, after the textiles manufacturer said its profits had almost halved in the six months to June 30. While UK like sales held strong, demand dropped in continental Europe and the US, leaving overall taxable profits at £3.75 million (£7.24 million). It blamed the collapse on Lepel, its Italian bra business, which it said suffered from a lack of demand across Europe. Earnings were 1.9p (3.6p) per share. The interim dividend is held at 1.3p, due on November 21.

### Brunner Mond at 175p

THE flotation price for Brunner Mond, the alkaline chemicals producer, was set at 175p a share yesterday valuing the company at £133.2 million. The range indicated was 170-210p. Brunner Mond is the only UK producer of soda ash, used in making glass, chemicals and detergents, and makes sodium bicarbonate. About 10 per cent of the shares go to individuals who applied through intermediaries and who will receive about 55 per cent of the shares for which they applied. Dealing starts on September 26.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982

#### SUM ALLIANCE INSURANCE UK LIMITED

#### TRANSACTIONS OF BUSINESS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sum Alliance Insurance UK Limited applied to the Secretary of State for the Protection of Consumers on 12 September 1996 for full approval, pursuant to Part II of the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer its 100 per cent interest in its subsidiary, Sum Alliances Financial Services Limited, 244 Highgate, London NW3 6EP, and all of its rights, obligations and liabilities under the contracts under which it holds a stake in the Scheme (Defined Benefit Scheme) for the avoidance of doubt, to Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros, 11 St. James's Court, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AA, and to Sum Alliances Financial Services Limited, 244 Highgate, London NW3 6EP, before or before the 31 October 1996.

After this date the Trustee will proceed to distribute the assets of the Scheme to the members entitled to them having regard only to claims of which they have given notice to the Trustee. The Trustee will be liable for the means of distribution of the assets of the Scheme to the extent that any member of whom claims a right to a share of the assets of the Scheme will not be entitled to receive any payment from the Trustee.

2. In the opinion of the Committee, the transfer of the assets of the Scheme to the members entitled to them having regard only to claims of which they have given notice to the Trustee, will not be in the best interests of the members of the Scheme.

3. The Committee has decided to accept the transfer of the assets of the Scheme to the members entitled to them having regard only to claims of which they have given notice to the Trustee.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Roche and Glaxo in City talk of bid for Zeneca

SHARES of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals group demerged from ICI, surged to a new high as talk that a bid may be just round the corner was revived.

At one stage the price soared above 16p before closing 4p higher at 15.90 as almost 4.5 million shares changed hands in a market where traders will normally only make a price in 25,000 at a time.

In the Square Mile there is talk of a bid from Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, which is one of the few companies that has the financial muscle to raise the £19 billion needed to finance the deal. This story was fuelled by reports of heavy Swiss buying of Zeneca shares, in the form of American Depository Receipts, overnight in New York.

Glaxo Wellcome is also seen as a possible suitor for Zeneca, while some traders claim Zeneca is poised to link up with one of its main rivals to form a joint venture. Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, has played down talk of a takeover but brokers maintain there is never smoke without fire. Without a bid the shares look expensive.

Elsewhere, technical factors provided the rest of the equity market with a springboard with which to launch another assault on the 4,000 level. As market-makers attempted to square their positions ahead of today's expiry of the September futures contracts the FTSE 100 index hit a new intra trading high of 3,987.7. But with Wall Street opening lower on the back of some stronger than expected US housing starts, it saw its lead cut back to 1.29 points at 3,974.3 to end just 2.9 short of its previous best. A total of 708 million shares were traded.

Lloyds Abbey Life was another takeover favourite, with the price jumping 11p to 59.2. Once again the story suggests Lloyds TSE, down 6p at 39.1, is poised to mop up the minority stake it does not already own.

News of job losses and proposed restructuring left British Airways sporting a rise of 14p at 54.1p, while Cable and Wireless benefited from recent presentations with brokers, adding 5p at 45.7p.

BICC finished 1p lighter at 315p as brokers gave their seal of approval to the group's plan to raise £170 million by way of a two-for-one rights issue at 270p. It wants the money to form part of a £215 million



Ken Lever, financial director, left, and Robin Paul, of Albright & Wilson, saw brokers reducing forecasts

investment programme in the optical fibre industry over the next couple of years.

Half-year figures from RMC Group were every bit as bad as feared with pre-tax profits dropping from £130.3 million to £95.8 million. Brokers immediately began downgrading their estimates for the full year with SBC Warburg reckoned to have

150p. Profits were at the top end of expectations but the statement on current trading failed to inspire. Brokers are still looking for between £130 million and £135 million for the full year.

Albright & Wilson, whose chief executive is Robin Paul, was pegged at 200p as brokers reduced their full-year forecasts to take account of the year of 150p.

An interim profit setback failed to undermine Geest, 4p firmer at 236p, but left Sherwood Group 4p lower at 59p, and Steel Barrill Jones 2p higher at 34p. S Daniels held steady at 31p after a return to the black.

□ GILT-EDGED: Prices recovered from a nervous start that greeted the stronger than expected money supply numbers and prompted an early mark-down. But the London market recovered its poise and went on to outperform US Treasury bonds which came in lower on the back of the housing start numbers.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished a couple of ticks firmer at 1017/2 as a total of 50,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 32 down at 1991/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased a tick to 1033/4.

□ NEW YORK: Strong housing start statistics in the US triggered further fears over interest rates on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 24.41 points lower at 5,852.95.

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Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch household products group, ended 15p higher at 13.89, ahead of meetings next week between Niall FitzGerald, the new chief executive, and brokers. Now that the Persil fiasco and problems over ice cream distribution are out of the way, they will want to know what his plans are.

slashed its forecast by £40 million to £757 million. James Capel, the broker, has cut its forecast from £67 million to £63.3 million, with Kleinwort Benson looking for £62 million. Half-year profits rose £1.9 million to £32 million.

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THE  
TIMES**Inopportune calls for Green**

SIR IAIN VALLANCE, chairman of BT, received a complaint yesterday from a very angry Hughie Green. The cult host of *Opportunity Knocks* and *Double Your Money* is absolutely raging after his ex-directory telephone number fell into rogue hands. Anyone who called City Deal Services freephone number last Sunday, requesting details of the forthcoming Thistle Hotels share offer, would not have heard the usual recorded message. Instead, they were told: "You have won £100 worth of shares in Thistle Hotels. To claim your prize contact Hughie Green on 0171-xxxxxx. Your share certificate will be sent to you shortly." Green was kept awake until three in the morning dealing with "abusive" callers. "My entire life has been devoted to giving away money, but I don't want my name being used to push shares," says Green.

**Diamond blues**

DAVID FARDON, a manager at Argyle Diamonds, was taking extra care at yesterday's viewing of the 47-carat pink diamond collection at The Lansborough hotel. It was only two years ago that Fardon was showing off a rare pink diamond priced at \$500,000, when it dropped onto his belly and bounced into the unknown. Eventually, Fardon's zealous secretary found it in the turn-up of his trousers.



Green: kept awake

**Sheepish**

CHEZ GÉRARD, venue of the Maxwell celebratory shindig yesterday, is responsible for sending out some rather disturbing invitations. The restaurant chain has sent out 250 Damien Hirst-style plastic sheep pickled in urine sample bottles, along with an invitation to the tenth gathering of The Carnivores' Club at Butcher's Hall in the City. Could the idea have come from Clare Whitley, Chez Gérard's finance director, whose husband just happens to be David Kershaw, a director at M&C Saatchi?

**Trust for Labour**

A FLIER falls on my desk from TU Fund Managers with an opportunity to upstage Matthew Harding. Tony Christopher, chairman and another of Tony Blair's coffer-filers, promises to donate 50p to the Labour Party when I send for more details on the TU British Trust. For every £1,000 invested or savings plan opened, TU Fund Managers, which boasts Paul Blagborough, finance director at the Labour Party, as one of its directors, will give an extra donation of £10. As Christopher says: "An investment with us is thus also an investment in the well-being of others less fortunate."

AN ATTRACTIVE advertisement stands out in this month's edition of *What Investment magazine*. It promises "Pep's with proven performance". It goes on: "Morgan Grenfell has a range of top-performing Peps to suit your individual needs..."

# Beware politicians bearing beguiling tax-cutting gifts

**New research suggests lower taxes are not feasible, says Janet Bush**

PADDY ASHDOWN, whose Liberal Democrats convene in Brighton for their annual conference next week, recently accused the Conservatives and Labour of playing games on tax and treating people with contempt in the process.

As the two main parties horse-trade tax-cutting promises, Mr Ashdown has offered the British public two tax increases. There is the long-standing Liberal Democrat promise to raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p to pay for increased spending on education, and a more recent pledge to impose a new 50p in the pound top tax rate for anyone earning £100,000 or more a year. This, he has promised, would pay to take 750,000 low-paid out of the tax net.

It is, of course, relatively painless to talk of higher taxes when your party has no hope of winning an election. But it is refreshing to hear a little bit of honesty on the subject from a political leader. Mr Ashdown's contention that the two main parties are playing fast and loose with public expectations on tax is given ample support from new research by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, commissioned by Channel 4 News.

The ITEM Club, the only private-sector organisation to use the Treasury's economic model, has calculated the effect of various combinations of taxation and spending under both a Tory and a New Labour government over the next five years. The message is deeply unwelcome to both as they gear up for the election, determined to make tax a key issue.

The new calculations clearly show that, only by keeping taxes where they are currently (and that is still a net £12 billion higher than when the Norman Lamont-Kenneth Clarke double act had to raise them to pay the costs of recession) and freezing public spending in real terms for the next few years, will the public finances return to anywhere near balance in the foreseeable future. Paul Droop, the ITEM Club's chief economist, said: "These figures give a very clear message — that it is far, far too soon to be talking about reducing the tax burden on the country. The public sector is not paying its way at the moment and is not likely to for the next five years."

For the Conservative Party,



Promises promises: Tory poster proclaiming the average family is £700 better off...



... Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, unveiling the Labour Party view

the message is that tax cuts in November and in any new five-year term should not be contemplated if the Chancellor is to achieve his aim of restoring the public finances to balance in the medium term. Neither the party's pledge finally to achieve a 20p lower income tax band nor the long-term abolition of capital gains and inheritance tax are compatible with its fiscal aims, without further large real cuts in public spending.

For New Labour, there is no

way that it can achieve its tax promises — an eventual 10p tax band for the low-paid and the abolition of 8 per cent VAT on domestic fuel — as well as sustainability in the public finances, without huge cuts in public spending.

The ITEM Club's first set of calculations assumes that an incoming government — Tory or Labour — delivers no tax cuts and freezes public spending in real terms. In this case, the public sector borrowing requirement reaches virtual

balance at £700 million in the financial year 1999-2000. In the next year, the budget would be in surplus to the tune of £5 billion. It then works out what the impact on the public finances would be if the parties managed to freeze growth in public spending but delivered their main tax promises in a phased way.

For the Conservatives, the assumption is that the 20p tax band is achieved in three

stages, with 2p off the basic rate in November and

PSBR 1999/2000: FIVE POSSIBLE OPTIONS

CONSERVATIVES AND LABOUR: No real spending growth. No tax cuts... £700 million
CONSERVATIVES: No real spending growth. 20p tax band... £8.3 billion
LABOUR: No real spending growth. 10p tax band. Abolish VAT on fuel... £11.6 billion
CONSERVATIVES: Spending up 1 per cent a year. 20p tax band... £16.7 billion
LABOUR: Spending up 1 per cent a year. 10p tax band. Abolish VAT on fuel... £21.2 billion

Doesn't go ahead with Conservative capital spending cuts.

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## Blagden restores interim

Blagden Industries, the packaging and chemicals company, is restoring its interim dividend at 1p a share (1995 - nil) after lifting pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £4.2 million in the half year to June 30. Earnings rose to 7p a share from 3.7p. David Kendall, chairman, said the turnaround programme from the time of a restructuring in May 1994 was now largely complete. In spite of some increase in the pressure on margins, the second half would confirm the company's recovery. The shares rose 10p to 19.5p.

### Daniels rises

S Daniels, the food manufacturing and distribution company, earned pre-tax profits of £81,000 in the six months to June 30 (£3.1 million loss). Earnings were 0.3p a share (36.7p loss). There is an interim dividend of 0.1p (nil). The company has disposed of three of its original businesses and completed its first acquisition.

### Avesta loss

About 85 jobs are to be lost with the closure of the steelworks of Avesta Sheffield at Panteg, South Wales. Production is to move to British Steel's works at Stocksbridge. Avesta Sheffield said its cold rolling business at Panteg, with 200 staff, was unaffected.

# RMC hurt by decline in Germany

By KEITH RODGERS

PRE-TAX profits at RMC, the building materials group, dropped 26.5 per cent to £95.8 million in the first half as weak European economies and severe weather conditions took their toll.

The company was hit hard in Germany, its largest market, where trading profit fell from £65.2 million to £28 million on turnover down from £882.2 million to £732.7 million. RMC gave warning that the second half would also be weak in Germany and a gentle decline in volumes is expected in 1997.

Hopes of a recovery in UK house building were also dashed in the first half and infrastructure investment declined further, contributing to an overall fall in UK trading profit of 14.7 per cent. However, Peter Young, the chief executive, said that prices remained firm.

Although the company expects an improvement in the second half, the results prompted a downgrading in the full-year projections of several analysts, with BZW dropping its forecast from £300 million to £285 million. One analyst suggested the figures were broadly in line with expectations, but the mix of results was different, with the German performance lower than expected.

Group turnover fell 5.1 per

cent to £2114.9 million, while earnings per share decreased 28.6 per cent on the previous year's adjusted figure to 22.2p. The company has declared a slightly increased dividend of 7.8p per share, payable on November 29.

The results included £3.5 million redundancy costs, which are likely to increase in the second half.

Elsewhere in Europe, Austria was hit by severe weather, the French construction industry continues to deteriorate, but profits increased in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

The US operation, which will be the third-largest contributor to the group this year, saw substantially increased profits. However, profits in Israel remained flat. Mr Young said the company had set up a "toe-in-the-water" joint venture in India and Jordan, and was still looking to move into Malaysia.

Profits climbed at the company's Great Mills DIY stores, but conditions were tough in its builders' merchants chain. The company indicated that it was keeping an eye on events at Wickes, the DIY retailer.

Gearing fell from 47.3 per cent to 35.9 per cent, and the company expects it to fall to 30 per cent over the year unless it makes a major acquisition.

Tempus, page 26



Maurice Warren, left, chairman of Camas, and Alan Shearer, chief executive

## Camas suffers setback

By MARTIN BARROW

CAMAS, the construction materials company, is holding its interim dividend at 1.25p after suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.9 million, from £6.7 million, in the six months to June 30.

The company said that a strong performance in America had partially offset the adverse effect of a difficult UK market but could not prevent a decline in group operating profits to £6.5 million, from £9.2 million. Turnover was

little changed at £192.4 million, against £196.3 million.

Profits from European activities, including the UK, fell to £9.5 million, from £13.3 million, after a charge of £2 million against further rationalisation to match capacity to a changing market. American operations made a strong start to the year after the winter shutdown and the operating loss of £1 million was £1.2 million less than in the previous first half.

Alan Shearer, chief executive

said that UK aggregate and asphalt volumes would remain subdued in the absence of an improvement in housebuilding and with a continuation of reduced spending on roads. Aggregate prices remain firm in all Camas's markets and the operation continued to benefit from cuts in the cost base made in the period and in past years.

Earnings per share fell to 1.1p, from 1.5p. The interim dividend is due on December 2.

## Albright shines on despite high costs

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the speciality chemicals group, defied continuing high raw material costs to deliver improved interim profits.

The company, the world's biggest producer of purified phosphoric acid, lifted pre-tax profits 6 per cent to £32 million in the six months to June 30.

Robin Paul, chief executive, said raw material costs added £43 million to bills in 1995 as a whole and had added £6 million in the first half as prices failed to fall back as the company had hoped.

A number of one-off factors will limit the performance of the company's phosphates division in the second half. It will have to buy in sulphuric acid for its plant in Mexico during the refurbishment of its own sulphuric plant. The temporary closure will cost £1 million in the second half. Higher Chinese phosphorous prices will also have an impact.

Total restructuring charges may be as much as £3.5 million in the full year. The company said that growth in the division should resume in 1997.

Material costs in the surfactants division, which makes wetting and foaming agents for detergents and toiletries, were relatively stable during the period, with cost-cutting and improved volumes helping operating profits to rise to £5.6 million (£1.8 million). Lower raw material costs also helped speciality chemicals to boost operating profits 7.9 per cent to £8.2 million.

The group's gearing stood at 14 per cent. Earnings per share were 15 per cent up at 7.5p and the interim dividend has been lifted to 2.25p (2.15p), payable on November 21.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Benjamin Priest boosts Alumasc

PROFITS at Alumasc Group, the engineering and construction products company, rose to £14.1 million before tax in the year to June 30, from £11.2 million in the previous 12 months. The rise was helped by a maiden contribution from Benjamin Priest, which was acquired in October 1995 for £35 million. Earnings were 24.3p a share, rising from an adjusted 21.9p previously. The dividend is increased to 5p a share from 7.04p, with a 5.55p final. The shares rose 10p to 410p yesterday.

With the addition of the ten businesses that comprised the Benjamin Priest group, the company's product mix has changed, with the engineering sector accounting for two thirds of turnover and construction for one third. John McCall, chairman, said that Alumasc was set to benefit from the anticipated upturn in private construction and industrial investment, although market conditions would result in a contraction of the beer container business.

### United Carriers recovers

UNITED CARRIERS GROUP, the parcels and freight company, has returned to profit, earning £750,000 before tax in the half year to June 30. Losses were £1.4 million before tax in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 1.9p a share, against losses of 5.6p previously. The shares rose 4.1p to 94.1p yesterday. The company said the outcome for the full year depended largely upon volumes during the busy autumn period. Results for the second half so far are in line with forecasts.

### Ricardo pays the same

RICARDO GROUP, the automotive design and testing company, is holding its total dividend at 6.3p a share in spite of suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million, from £6.16 million, in the year to June 30. The latest results included a £1.45 million charge against discontinued operations. Earnings per share fell to 5.9p, from 6p. The final dividend is held at 4.5p a share, payable on November 29. The company said that its year-end order position was satisfactory. The shares fell 10p to 115p.

### New Ireland lifts payout

STIFF competition in the home and car insurance market resulted in a drop in interim profits for New Ireland Holdings, the insurance group based in Dublin. For the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits slipped to £14.95 million from £15.28 million. Earnings dropped to 12.67p from 12.77p, but the company declared a 10.1 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 12.67p, payable on October 16. Life assurance and pensions business both recorded strong growth. The company said the results were satisfactory in a competitive environment.

### Power station inquiry

PLANS by PowerGen to build a gas-fired power station on part of a former steelworks at Gartons will go to a public inquiry. Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, announced yesterday. The inquiry, which comes after an objection by North Lanarkshire Council, is expected to be held early next year. Mr Forsyth's consent is required for construction of any power station of more than 50 megawatts generating capacity. However, an application objected to by the relevant authority must be considered by a public inquiry.

### IBC raises profits

IBC Group, the publishing and conferences company, said it remained "cautiously optimistic" after reporting a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £7.2 million in the half year to June 30. Earnings rose 13 per cent to 14.8p a share. The interim dividend is increased to 3.3p a share from 3p, due November 11. After disposal of the mainly low-margin consumer newsletters, overall publishing margins improved to 21 per cent (15 per cent) and the publishing division earned operating profits of £2.39 million (£1.41 million).

### Deltron value £27.6m

DELTRON Electronics, the specialist electronics company, will be capitalised at £27.6 million when it achieves a full stock market listing via its share placing this month. The company, with operations in Britain and France, distributes and manufactures switches, filters, alarms, connectors, security products and electronic point-of-sale equipment. Directors forecast pre-tax profits of £2.24 million in the current financial year, a 79 per cent increase over the previous 12 months.

### Spanex ahead

SPANDEX, the supplier of materials to the signmaking industry, achieved a 12.5 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits, up £4.5 million from £4 million, in the half year to June 30. Earnings per share advanced 12 per cent, to 8.6p. An interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 1p, is due to be paid on January 10. The company said that its £1.5 million acquisition of ND Graphic Products in Canada, announced in April, had significantly extended its operations outside Europe.

### Era optimistic

ERA GROUP, the retail and distribution company that owns the Beatties chain of toy shops, said that there was some indication that the "feel-good" factor is starting to appear, auguring well for the key Christmas trading period. The company incurred an increase in pre-tax losses, to £2.57 million from £1.78 million, in the six months to June 30. Losses were 1.49p a share, against 1.05p last time. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

## Go-Ahead and Victory win Thames Trains franchise

By FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the bus operator, has won its joint bid for the Thames Trains franchise, promising to operate free from government subsidy within eight years.

The network, which carries Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, into work each morning, will be co-owned and entirely run by its old management. Go-Ahead plans to take a hands-off attitude to the business. Victory Railway Holdings, although it is providing £8.43 million of the £9.5 million needed to support the bid.

This is being paid by a loan note of £4.05 million, £130,000 in share subscription and a performance bond of £4.25 million. Go-Ahead retains a 65 per cent stake in Victory.

ing the £8.43 million by borrowings of £1.49 million and by placing £6.94 million of shares with institutions at 305p each.

Its shares shot up 56p, to an all-time high of 373.5p yesterday, buoyed by its strong results for the year to June 30. Having recovered from the effects of a price war with Thames Transit, its Oxford bus rival, it turned in full-year pre-tax profits of £11.1 million (£3.5 million). Earnings were 24.6p (21.9p) per share and a final dividend of 3.7p, payable on November 28, makes a total 5.55p (4.8p).

The Thames Trains network runs from Hereford to London's Paddington station and Gatwick Airport. Victory said it will double the frequency of trains between Oxford and Paddington.



Salmon: subsidy pledge

It's nice to meet you.



It's Matt Ryan's job to listen.

As a Senior Designer at LG Electronics Design-Tech, Matt must intimately understand the different aesthetics of each European country. And then translate that understanding into intelligently designed TVs, VCRs, microwaves and other products. (Matt and his colleagues even helped design their company's Red Oak House headquarters.)

At LG, we listen a lot to our customers. We think that habit explains why we're leaders in advanced applications like thin-film transistor liquid crystal displays and high-definition TV.

We're active in many other business areas too, including DRAM memory chips, pharmaceuticals, and satellite communications.

And the same dedication and customer focus Matt Ryan and his fellow designers bring to their work, our 126,000 other employees bring to our other areas of expertise.

Now, how can we help you?

<http://www.lg.co.kr/>

# Earlier gains halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996 High/Low Company	Price (\$)	Yield %	PE x
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>			
556 419 Allied Domecq 349 30 17.6			
675 560 British Distillers 349 30 17.6			
121 944 Beam Group 525 30 17.3			
725 1010 British American 175 19 19.3			
921 411 Grand Met 60 20 17.6			
93 435 Guinness 267 10 14.0			
214 215 Heublein 145 16 16.1			
147 133 Martini & Rossi 125 11 11.2			
2012 1000 St. James 620 22 22			
<b>BANKS</b>			
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THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %	Symbol	Buy	YTD %							
ABU UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD			CAVENHUE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD			FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD			Euro Star Cos	194.95	208.42	+ 0.74	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	624 & Fleet	10.83	104.20	- 0.26	5.79	-	-	-	-	-					
01885 716 703			Cameron Portfolio	102.58	109.43	+ 0.16	2.33	American Growth	90.18	85.42	- 0.37	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	107.50	114.40	+ 1.70	-	-	-	-	-	-							
Geordie Amer	223.90	238.90	+ 0.50	0.14	American Portfolio	124.61	122.31	+ 0.24	0.85	-do-Accm	80.18	85.42	- 0.37	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	88.65	73.05	- 0.62	1.37	-	-	-	-	-					
Geordie Equity	285.20	303.20	+ 0.60	1.82	European Portfolio	135.23	144.02	+ 0.78	0.61	-do-Accm	71.20	78.40	+ 2.50	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	79.25	84.35	- 0.62	1.37	-	-	-	-	-					
Geordie Env	269.80	305.30	+ 0.40	0.57	High Income	51.58	51.70	+ 0.09	7.15	-do-Accm	72.20	77.00	+ 2.50	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	85.50	103.00	+ 2.25	-	-	-	-	-						
Geordie Env Sel	132.10	137.10	+ 0.57	-	Japanese Portfolio	58.92	73.20	+ 0.51	-	-do-Accm	39.10	42.07	- 0.60	1.50	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	200.70	207.20	+ 2.80	-	-	-	-	-					
Geordie Env Sel	75.56	78.06	- 0.13	6.10	Pacific Portfolio	156.99	168.81	+ 0.16	1.41	-do-Accm	58.40	62.00	+ 0.60	1.50	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	211.00	225.20	+ 2.20	-	-	-	-	-					
Geordie Japan	170.20	180.10	+ 1.50	-	UK Equity	93.27	105.09	+ 0.10	5.99	-do-Accm	61.89	75.59	+ 0.14	0.39	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	228.00	230.50	+ 1.15	-	-	-	-	-					
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS			CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG			CONF CHARITY FUNDS			European Portfolio	65.34	70.21	+ 0.16	0.97	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	65.34	70.21	+ 0.16	0.97	-	-	-	-	-					
01203 553 231			0171 508 1815			0171 508 1875			Investment Inc.	768.91	761.55	+ 0.82	4.26	-do-Accm	151.10	161.20	+ 0.30	0.90	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	163.30	170.50	+ 0.44	1.97	-	-	-	-	-
General Acc	661.00	724.50	-	2.57	Fixed Inc	155.00	156.62	+ 1.77	5.19	-do-Accm	161.10	176.50	+ 0.30	0.90	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	170.20	182.50	+ 0.56	1.36	-	-	-	-	-				
General Inc	585.10	604.67	-	2.70	Fixed Inc Sec	155.00	156.62	+ 1.77	5.19	-do-Accm	207.20	213.97	+ 0.56	1.36	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	208.00	219.27	+ 0.56	1.36	-	-	-	-	-				
Georgie Env	105.10	124.00	-	2.70	Investment Inc.	768.91	761.55	+ 0.82	4.26	-do-Accm	623.00	663.60	+ 0.30	0.45	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	623.00	663.60	+ 0.30	0.45	-	-	-	-	-				
Higher Inc Acc	608.50	611.20	-	4.20	Fixed Inc Acc	127.72	128.24	+ 0.97	3.05	-do-Accm	174.40	185.50	+ 0.38	0.46	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	174.40	185.50	+ 0.38	0.46	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Acc	441.60	468.00	-	4.20	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	57.43	62.82	+ 0.06	0.79	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	57.43	62.82	+ 0.06	0.79	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	211.50	223.00	-	5.82	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	64.61	68.82	+ 0.10	0.79	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	64.61	68.82	+ 0.10	0.79	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	52.63	57.84	-	5.82	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	95.16	107.20	+ 0.10	0.79	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	95.16	107.20	+ 0.10	0.79	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	302.60	407.30	-	0.37	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	156.99	168.81	+ 0.16	1.41	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	156.99	168.81	+ 0.16	1.41	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	368.20	383.20	-	0.37	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	168.90	170.59	+ 0.10	0.59	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	168.90	170.59	+ 0.10	0.59	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	92.12	98.80	-	2.88	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	251.80	261.80	+ 0.30	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	251.80	261.80	+ 0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Global Fund for Sel	115.70	123.10	-	4.04	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	263.80	261.80	+ 0.30	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	263.80	261.80	+ 0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Global Fund for Sel	77.35	82.20	-	4.04	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	265.80	270.80	+ 0.15	0.59	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	265.80	270.80	+ 0.15	0.59	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	106.10	112.90	-	0.01	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	64.04	68.73	+ 0.12	2.78	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	80.59	84.46	+ 0.14	2.78	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-				
Global Fund for Sel	406.20	432.20	-	0.98	Fixed Inc Acc	227.53	228.46	+ 1.79	-	-do-Accm	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-	Motor Trust	270.00	285.60	+ 0.10	3.61	-	-	-	-	-				
ABERY UNIT TST MGRS			EMERGING MARKETS			FRIDAY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD			Euro Star Cos	194.95	208.42	+ 0.74	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	do-Accm	107.50	114.40	+ 1.70	-	-	-	-	-	-					
0245 717 373			Emerging Markets	50.00	61.62	+ 0.01	0.02	American Growth	90.18	85.42	- 0.37	-	-	-	-	-	do-Accm	103.31	110.13	+ 0.41	0.47	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Global & Fixed	129.35	137.20	-	0.30	1.11	Emerging Markets	50.00	61.62	+ 0.01	0.02	American Portfolio	124.61	122.31	+ 0.24	0.85	-	-	-	do-Accm	127.40	130.65	+ 0.44	1.97	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Global & Equity	165.00	197.90	-	4.16	Emerging Markets	50.00	61.62	+ 0.01	0.02	Asian Growth	124.61	122.31	+ 0.24	0.85	-	-	-	do-Accm	127.40	130.65	+ 0.44	1.97	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Global & Income	284.00	301.20	+ 0.40	4.08	Emerging Markets	50.00	61.62	+ 0.01	0.02	Asian Portfolio	124.61	122.31	+ 0.24	0.85	-	-	-																

The logo for Barney's Jewelers, featuring the brand name in a stylized, serif font inside an oval border. Below the name, the words "The Jewelry Store" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

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## كتاب من الأصل





## ■ POP 1

On and on: after a gruesome start, the story of the Longpigs has turned celebrity corner



## ■ POP 2

The groove's the thing: DJ Shadow cuts up a mean beat on his new *Endroducing*



## ■ POP 3

Smug ironies, and possibly the most irritating voice in pop: can Space overcome these small problems?



## ■ POP 4

Multinational aggression comes from the bizarre souls of Disciplin A Kitschme

# Confessions of a young cannibal

Once, Crispin Hunt wanted to be a priest. Then he lost God and founded the Longpigs. Ann Scanlon reports

**T**he morning after the Longpigs made their live debut in America, there are so many British musicians and record company executives in the foyer of New York's Paramount Hotel that it looks more like a Camden pub at closing time than a fashionable spot in Manhattan.

Among those sprawled across the furniture are the Longpigs, who are in the city to take part in its annual CMJ Music Marathon and Musicfest, a four-day event featuring live performances from hundreds of bands, including fellow Brits the Bluestones, Kula Shaker, Manic Street Preachers and Super Furry Animals.

Like almost everyone else in the lobby, Crispin Hunt, the 26-year-old singer-guitarist of the Longpigs, has had very little sleep. He, though, spent most of the previous night exploring the more obscure parts of Greenwich Village rather than hanging out at after-show parties.

"I'm not interested in posing around with loads of other musicians," he says over coffee in a diner just around the corner from the Paramount. "I've seen a couple of gigs, but I haven't been to a single party. As soon as I get to one I have to leave, because it's like, 'What is this? This is just Camden being recreated in the bar of an American hotel.' People think Camden is cool, but to me, it's like an overgrown students union."

Hunt's good-natured disregard for the music business and all that is currently fashionable was nurtured during the Longpigs' troubled early years — although he admits, with mild embarrassment, that he recently relocated from Sheffield to the more bohemian quarters of Notting Hill in West London.

Hunt formed the Longpigs — the name came from a book about cannibalism — with drummer Dee Boyle and bassist Simon Stafford in November 1991, with guitarist Richard Hawley joining a year later. They

**Singing to 20,000 people is like having 20,000 therapists**

Heaven might not exist, but Hunt was soon to discover that limbo did. Just as the Longpigs were about to release their debut single, Elektra closed its British office and slapped such a heavy price tag on the band's head that no other label would touch it. Around the same time, Hunt was further devastated when his first serious romance came to an abrupt end. "It was proper love," he says now. "The kind that they make movies and write songs about."

**E**ventually, the Longpigs wrangled their way out of the record deal and, by the end of 1994, had signed up with Mother, the label U2 started in Dublin in the mid-1980s. They then recorded another debut album, *The Son is Often Out*, which featured "the greatest hits" from the shelved record and several new songs (including their new single, *Lost Myself*).

Rather than being lumped in with the Britpop masses, the Longpigs' soulful songs and Hunt's impressive vocal range earned them favourable comparisons with Radiohead. "I'd rather be compared to Radiohead than Northern Uproar or Bis," Hunt

said to the Warner Bros offshoot, Elektra, recorded an album with the high-profile producer Gil Norton and were already "practising at being pop stars" when everything collapsed around them.

The first sign that things were no longer going according to plan came when Hunt was speeding down the M1 at 70 miles per hour and unexpectedly piled his car into the back of a lorry. Hunt, who was raised a Catholic and had once considered the priesthood but eventually settled for pop stardom instead, fell into a coma. When he awoke three days later, he was a confirmed atheist. "Some people who have near-death experiences see tunnels of light and immediately become Christians," he says. "But I just woke up and thought, 'This is it. When you're dead you're dead'."

Heaven might not exist, but Hunt was soon to discover that limbo did. Just as the Longpigs were about to release their debut single, Elektra closed its British office and slapped such a heavy price tag on the band's head that no other label would touch it. Around the same time, Hunt was further devastated when his first serious romance came to an abrupt end. "It was proper love," he says now. "The kind that they make movies and write songs about."

**H**unt has also managed to get the most out of his failed love affair by using it as the basis for the anthemic



"Rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them": the Longpigs — (from left) Simon Stafford, Richard Hawley, Crispin Hunt and Dee Boyle — follow the path of righteousness

**I**s "I think all this revivalism is really sad. Call me old-fashioned, but rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them. It's not meant to be about fitting in, and I think that's working to our advantage."

Hunt has also managed to get the

most out of his failed love affair by

using it as the basis for the anthemic

**O**n and On, which gave the Longpigs their first Top 20 hit in the summer. Performing such personal songs has also provided a useful substitute for the Catholic ritual he most enjoyed.

"I used to love confession," he says.

"I mean, people spend thousands of pounds on therapists and you get to

tell your sins to a priest for free. But

**singing songs like On and On in front of 20,000 people is a form of confession — it's like having 20,000 therapists — and when they all clap at the end it's the biggest kick you can imagine."**

**• The new single Lost Myself is released on Monday by Mother. Longpigs' British tour begins tomorrow at Manchester University**

## A jagged little pill to swallow

Real women should take no pride in the success of Alanis, Tori and other female singer-songwriters

**S**ometimes, the music industry is so predictable you could set your watch by it. Almost exactly ten years since the last glut of "intense" female singer-songwriters, we're hitting this decade's lot right on time. Undeterred by the careers that petered out for the likes of Tanita Tikaram and Julia Fordham, A&R men the world over have again gone girl crazy.

This year's depressing slew

contains Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, Patti Rothberg, Tori Amos and at least another half-dozen skin-buty-bottomed women with photogenic faces and a couple of problems that rhyme with each other.

Now, there's a

difference

between

humourless

feminist

whingeing

and

pointing

things out.

If I

should say:

"Well, we have

a bunch of

safe, pretty girls

singing

about

nothing

much;

and this is

because

men rule

everything," then

that is a whinge. Should I

point out that the majority

of A&R men are,

indeed,

men, and will therefore only

sign female artists that they,

as men,

can understand,

then you'll start to see my

point.

This is what A&R men

understand

women singing

about

how a man

doesn't

love them any more;

how they've

found a new man to

love;

how the world is,

weird;

sex. And so these are

the only female singer-songwriters we see.

Pretty depressing when

you consider that singer-songwriters are prestige-

"classy"

artists, and

"classy"

artists generally get

more

leeway

in terms of

unconventional looks and

opinions. Incredibly depressing when you consider that women look like everything, and want to sing about everything. Part of the problem is retroism — a trend much discussed with reference to *Cast*, *Ocean*

caused a storm in the press,

because of its sexually explicit lyrics. These were seen as challenging. How could they be? Ninety per cent of the songs in the charts at the moment are about wanting to have sex. How can a beautiful woman saying she enjoys it be seen as challenging? Even the readers and writers of *Loaded* have realised women like sex.

But bring me a fat chick

singing about oral sex — that's challenging. How about a fortysomething woman singing about it, or a rather "plain" girl singing about how "ugly" women are better in bed? Or women who have no desire to sing about love or sex at all? Who want to sing about champagne supernovas and teen spirit and working class heroes?

In order to find its own identity, a generation must have a vast range of identities to choose from. While our most successful female artists are emotionally restricted, questionably marketed and look like members of the cast of *Friends*, I doubt whether we're providing that range.

ALBUMS: From mercurial moods, through smug Space, to a deranged diva



Not joshing: California's DJ Shadow — "Mike Oldfield meets Terminator X on the edge of a very dark dream"

## Dancing in deep Shadow

**DJ SHADOW**

*Endroducing...*

(Mo Wax/A&M MW059)

ALTHOUGH better known to his Mum as plain old Josh Davis from Davis, California, DJ Shadow is a recording artist whose work lives up to his assumed name. Nominally product of the American hip-hop genre, his debut album, *Endroducing...*, is subject to the kind of mysterious shifts in mood and tempo usually associated with Bristol's other-worldly trip-hop brigade.

But while the current fashion among British DJs is to pump out ever more pneumatic techno beats, Shadow takes more traditional funk rhythms as his template. "I'm a student of the drums," he announces on *Building Steam with a Grain of Salt*, and you will not hear a more lovingly produced facsimile of that big, super-flakey James Brown drum sound anywhere.

There are no tunes to speak of: groove and atmosphere is all. But as the beats are cut up and bounced across the turntables, and translucent keyboard parts swim in and out of the mix during the nine-

minute-long *Stem/Long*

*Stem*, the music gradually

assumes an almost symphonic

shape. It is as if Mike Oldfield had met Terminator X on the

edge of a very dark dream and forged an album of unlikely, mercurial delights.

**SPACE**

*Spiders*

(Gut Records/Total

Independence GUTCD1)

SPACE are the much fancied group from Liverpool whose efforts tend to be hampered by the fact that singer Jamie Murphy has the most irritating voice in pop. Mangling his vowels, rolling his Rs and whining like a child being forced to eat his greens, he combines the exaggerated

mannerisms of Steve Harley and John Lydon to excruciatingly meaningless effect on their debut album, *Spiders*.

The songs are peopled by a

grubby cast of weirdos (*Neighbourhood*), nutters (*Mister Psycho*), money-grubbing

inmates (*Money*), petty criminals (*We and You vs. the World*) and John Major (*Major Pager*), all of whose anti-social antics are documented with a worldly sneer and a voyeuristic eye for detail.

As writers, Space do have a way of producing a catchy pop tune, it is true. But the vaudeville touches and pseudo-Bacharach string arrangements add further layers of irony, kitch and a package that is already too smug by half.

Black Tooth, who wrote and

produced the album, has a

marauding approach to the

bass that recalls the wilder

extremes of fusion virtuoso

Stanley Clarke. Gofie Bebe, meanwhile, sounds like a diva

from the more raucous wing

of American R&B. She emotes

furiously but rarely gets hold

of a tune.

A spectacular display of energy and aggression, *I Think I See Myself On CCTV* will certainly go down as one of the most intriguingly deanged albums of the year.

**DISCIPILIN A KITSCHME**

*I Think I See Myself On CCTV* (Babaroga BABA CD1)



## ■ OPERA

Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom-farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



## ■ THEATRE 1

Metaphor piles on metaphor as Neil Bartlett puts *Balzac* on stage in Hammersmith



## ■ THEATRE 2

... while Schnitzler is turned into song in *Romance, Romance* at the Bridewell



■ TOMORROW  
Puccini in Leeds, and a great Tiepolo show in Venice: read the verdict of our top critics

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on a fantasy; and the fringe

## Queen of his heart

IF NEIL Bartlett were ever to dramatise a nursery rhyme, you can be sure he would not willingly tell a straightforward tale of ofically challenged rodents who make the unwise career move of running after a woman with a knife and end up terminally challenged as well. For a start, the show's narrator would be the moody son of the knife-grinder, whose hobby was mending clocks - and who could tell a tale of mice - to a striking melody written by Nicolas Bloomfield.

Sarrasine  
Lyric, HammersmithSara Kestelman and François Testory in *Sarrasine*

CURIOSITY Theatre Company is certainly aptly named. Chris Goode's play *Kissing Bingo* (at the Finborough) is very odd indeed. It glances from unexpected oblique angles at disturbed adolescents, domestic abuse and - possibly - parental murder. Goode's vision is aberrant but distractingly interesting.

In a weird white realm two teenagers are lying on their backs. Suddenly Tammy (Deborah O'Malley) is up and talking at us, blank-faced but manic. She tells us Tammy and Daddy have been killed in a car accident. They were, she adds, without batting an eyelid, watching telly at the time, apparently innocently living in a cardboard reconstruction of the family home assembled by her brother Leo and placed on a motorway.

Tammy's monologue hovers between the absurd and the unsettling. In subsequent scenes we veer between past and present, reality and fantasy. We enter the sibling's memories, glimpsing increasingly nightmarish parents.

In the here and now, Tammy and Leo have been taken in by three bizarre pals - Eric, Pig and Angel. Leo

BRINGE THEATRE  
Parents past and present

(latently aggressive Finlay Robertson) latches onto Angel (scruffy Gregory McNamee), insisting he is their lost brother and redeemer.

The opera's the acting is stiff. Goode's drama fails to stir up satisfactorily and is weak on interaction. But his monologues are startling, abstruse, and poetically incisive.

Far more mainstream, we have a pair of musicals at the Bridewell. *Romance, Romance*, originally an off-Broadway hit, is hardly heart-searching but is staged with considerable dash (director Steven Dexter), lyricist Barry Harman and composer Keith Herrman, making a song and a dance out of a short story by Schnitzler: first transport us back to turn-of-the-century Vienna.

KATE BASSETT

## COMPETITION THE TIMES

## WIN A CLASSIC CAR

BY collecting tokens in *The Times* you could win one of five classic sports cars. The competition, in association with *The Sunday Times* and the Royal Mail, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the British motor industry by giving readers the chance to win one of the following five cars:

- Triumph TR3A, 1960
- MG TC, 1949
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TOKEN 11

The cars given as prizes will be of the same make but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown in the promotion. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic

## MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork concludes his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show



FIGURE OF A DANCER

NOTHING could be more poised and graceful than this enchanting ceramic dancer, excavated in Bajiaokou, Shaanxi province. With hands hidden by her garment, the figure uses the long sleeves to accentuate her own rhythmic gestures. This performer was meant to beguile the tomb's owner during his afterlife. The paint on her overgarment would once have run in brilliantly coloured patterns over the fine material. It reflects the importance attached to dancers throughout the Eastern Han period (AD 25-220).

The kings believed that rituals preserved cosmic harmony. The Han emperor Chengdi was so captivated by a dancer called Zhao Feiyang that she became his empress. This nickname the Flying Swallow, she gratified, like this figure, the Han dynasty's preference for willowy bodies.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by *The Times*, is

on at the British Museum, London, until 26 October. For more information call 0171 580 4422. *Richard Cork's China* is broadcast on BBC2, 8.30pm, Monday to Friday.

PHOTOGRAPH: BRITISH MUSEUM



## CHOICE 1

**Lorca's Blood Wedding** is staged in Ted Hughes's version  
VENUE: Now in preview at the Young Vic



## CHOICE 2

**Ring resounding:**  
Haitink conducts  
Covent Garden's  
*Rheingold*  
VENUE: Opens tomorrow at the Royal Opera



## MUSIC 1

**Richard Hickox** prepares for a long weekend with the great oratorios of Edward Elgar



## MUSIC 2

**Murray Perahia's** brilliant keyboard clarity does not emerge loud and clear in the new Bridgewater Hall

## LONDON

**BLOOD WEDDING** Alessandro Gavazzeni's *Il Matrimonio di Lorca* may the passion of loves in London. And Tim Supple directs a new version by Ted Hughes, with "hot death" music composed by Adrian Lee. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6833). Preview tomorrow, 7pm. Open Friday 27, 7.30pm; Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

**ELGAR WEEKEND** The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra launches the Barbican's Great British Orchestra series with a weekend devoted to Elgar. Richard Hickox conducts the company's first three Elgar works, beginning with *The Dream of Gerontius*, tonight at 8pm. *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* are on successive days, as are *Die tote Stadt* (2pm and 8pm) and *Sunday* (4pm), respectively.

Barbican, Silks Street, EC2 (0171-638 8811). Tonight-Sun.

**DAS RHEINGOLD** Bernard Haitink conducts the Royal Opera in three consecutive evenings of massive Wagnerian. *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, directed by Richard Jones, the remainder of this first cycle will be performed on September 30 (as *Die Walküre*), October 1 (Sieg) and October 12 (Götterdämmerung). Sung in German with English subtitles. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tonight, 7pm.

**ASHES TO ASHES** Peter world premieres London Duncan and Stephen Rea in an hour-long two-hander directed by Peter Royal Court's Upstart (Amberheads), West Street, WC2 (0171-730 1745). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

**BARTLEY** Red Shift's excellent production of Metello's story of the Wall Street crash, with a new ending, performed to a sold-out audience. Holloway's production down from Edinburgh in double quick time. Pleasance London, Carpenter's Lane, New Road, N1 (0171-609 1800). Tues-Sun, 8pm Mat. Sun, 4pm. Until September 29.

**BUDD** New play by Tracy Letts, with three of the Head Gulls actors from his *Barbican Killer Joe*. Another dysfunctional white trash family, this time from Oklahoma City, who are bombing. Gals, 111 Paddington Rd, W1 (0171-229 0708). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until October 19.

**FAUST** Parts 1 and 2: Michael Bogden's mythic two-part production of Goethe's drama, with Michael Feast in the title role and Hugh Quarshie as Mephistopheles. The Pit, Barbican, Silks Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today and tomorrow, 7pm. Part 2, 7.15pm. In rep.

**NEW RELEASES** ANTONIA'S LINE (19): A Dutch woman's lewd life. Food-gone-wrong from Marleen Goris: this year's winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar. *Ciervos Mayales* (0171-369 7200) Gads (0171-727 4043) Ritz (0171-737 2121) Virgin Classics (0171-352 5056).

**ESCAPE FROM LA (19)**: Bloody action from John Carpenter, set in a lawless Los Angeles of 2013. With Kurt Russell. Empire (0800-888 911) UCI Whiteley (0390 68890) Virgin: Filmhouse Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-334 0031).

**THE GREAT WHITE HOPE (19)**: Flat-tops and tarts with Samuel L. Jackson in a boner-filled tale. Odeon West End (0120-915 5747) Ritz (0171-337 2121).

**GUANTANAMERA (19)**: Lengthy Cuban satire with a few bright trimmings. Directors, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabo. Metro (0171-437 0757).

**THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURE OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE (19)**: Gauches but sweet tale of teenage lesbians, written and directed

## WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM** Birmingham Royal Ballet returns home to orchard scenes from *Swan Lake* and *La Bayadère* production by Sir Peter Wright and Galina Samsova of *Swan Lake* with choreography by Philip Prowse. Hippodrome, Hurst Street, EC2 (0171-229 1208) Tonight-8pm, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

**LEICESTER** Irving Welsh's *Whirl* and *Meatless Steak* Nightmares, adapted and directed by Harry Gibson, with some changes since last winter's premiere at the Glasgow Citizens. Garside, 20-22 Garside Street, ST1 (0115-234 0000) Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat (Oct 12, 2.30pm).

**LIVERPOOL** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus give the 100th performance of the Liverpool *Oratorio*, partly written by this evening's conductor, Carl Davis.

and one Paul McCartney. The soloists are Anna Diamon, Benedicta Cullen, Bonaventure Botone and Michael George. Promenade Hall, Hope Street (0151-708 2828) Tonight, 7.30pm.

**MILTON KEYNES** The Milton Keynes City Orchestra launches its 1995-97 season with Beethoven's overture to *Prometheus and the Stiegfled* by Wagner. The orchestra is then joined by the virtuoso piano of Michael Head. The Milton Keynes Centre, MK9 3JG, which is followed by Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*. Hilary Davan Weston conducts tonight's performance, which is repeated tomorrow. St. George's, St. Albans (0122-822 2777) Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**NOTTINGHAM** Irving Welsh's *Whirl* and *Meatless Steak* Nightmares, adapted and directed by Harry Gibson, with some changes since last winter's premiere at the Glasgow Citizens. Garside, 20-22 Garside Street, ST1 (0115-234 0000) Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat (Oct 12, 2.30pm).

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**NOTTINGHAM** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus give the 100th performance of the Liverpool *Oratorio*, partly written by this evening's conductor, Carl Davis.

## LONDON GALLERIES

**ANTHONY DUNHAM** The artist's first solo exhibition since 1988. The Royal Academy, 6 Burlington Gardens, W1 (0171-580 5322) Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm. Until October 26.

**EDWARD BURNE-JONES** *Antonin Dvorák's Dream of Gerontius* and *The Kingdom* on successive days. When you hear *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* on successive days. When you hear *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* side by side, you actually hear the leitmotifs of *The Apostles* coming back in *The Kingdom*. It's Elgar's uncompleted *Ring* cycle.

**ELGAR** *Richard Hickox* is clearly not unrelated categories for Hickox, as I discovered when I asked him about the orgy of Elgar he is indulging in this weekend at the Barbican (*Dream of Gerontius*, *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* on successive days). "When you hear *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* side by side, you actually hear the leitmotifs of *The Apostles* coming back in *The Kingdom*. It's Elgar's uncompleted *Ring* cycle."

**ELGAR** The operatic impulse is also foremost in Hickox's mind when it comes to questions of interpretation. "We've had so many performances of *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* which have been slow and undramatic and I want to make them intensely operatic, which I believe these works are. Although there is a lot of *religioso* music in it, there's also a lot of drama."

**ELGAR** What about the verdict of the Elgar scholar Jerrold Northrop Moore, that the weakness of *The Apostles* lies in the composer's failure to develop the character of Mary Magdalene; that the work contained the worst of Elgar's oratorio writing but also the best? "It's

very uneven, and some bits are weak. So I know exactly what he means. But a performance that catches fire transforms that. I will use a lot of the spatial effects. Oboes and cor anglais play offstage and there should be a semi-chorus separate from the choir that sings offstage. For me it will be an intensely emotional experience, and it's going to be a weekend that people who last the course won't forget."

**ELGAR** The following Sunday, also at the Barbican, Hickox will be resurrecting a rare rarity: George Dyson's choral epic *The Canterbury Pilgrims*. Dyson's works were enormously popular in the 1920s and 1930s, when choral societies thrived in their melodic facility and late-Romantic harmonies. And Dyson has enjoyed a revival recently, thanks not least to Hickox, who has recorded several of his pieces for Chandos.

**ELGAR** That company will be bringing out

the premiere recording of *The Canterbury Pilgrims* too, under Hickox, who can scarcely disguise his excitement. "It's a lot of fun. It's not a profound piece, but it's very entertaining and the craftsmanship is superb."

**ELGAR** The Barbican performance, like the recording, is to open with an orchestral piece called *At the Tabard Inn*, which Dyson said could be used as an overture. "Like a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, it has all the best tunes of the oratorio. It's a riot for the orchestra."

**ELGAR** Another major Hickox project for Chandos is the Grainger Edition, which is to give us the complete works of the Australian-born eccentric, sometimes in more than one version (Grainger often made arrangements for the same song for different forces, and also left the precise scoring to the discretion of the conductor). "He was completely off the wall. Who else can

you think of who uses ukuleles, banjos, harmoniums? But he knew the colours he wanted and they really work. And we've also made a point of going for the most bizarre scoring in each case. If you're going to do the whole cycle, there's no point in cutting corners."

**ELGAR** The first CD in the series includes two lesser-known orchestral works — Hickox is responsible only for those pieces that use an orchestral ensemble — namely *In a Nutshell* and *English Dance*. The former he describes as "an excellent piece"; the latter as "phenomenal — it's never been done before".

**ELGAR** Indeed, a good deal of Grainger has never been done before, or else rarely.

**ELGAR** And there are some real discoveries to be made, not least among the extraordinarily soul-stirring folk-song settings.

**ELGAR** See Weekend Choice, left, for details of the Elgar Weekend.

## THEATRE GUIDE

## CINEMA GUIDE

## LIVE

## REVIEW

## REVIEWS



## Try a little bit of this exam

Earlier this week the news broke that a student has been able to get his A-level grade changed by asking that the marks for his modules be apportioned differently. Surely that should set alarm bells ringing even more urgently about the concept of modular A levels?

For the first time this year, about one fifth of all A-level results depended on exams sat in bite-sized chunks during a two-year period. Vivian Anthony, secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, recently wrote in defence of modular A levels in a letter to *The Times*. "Whereas able candidates," he wrote, "will do well whatever the system of examining, lower-ability candidates have benefited significantly from the introduction of modular schemes." If that does not mean modular A levels are easier, then what does it mean?

One English department I know has resisted the modular option. It teaches the set texts and critical skills for two years in the traditional way. It shares the same syllabus as the "modularists" but candidates take all their end-of-module tests in one session at the end of the course. The department does this for

### Modular A levels are devaluing our education system, says Susan Elkin

are discussing the possibility of re-entering one candidate whose overall grade fell short of expectations; not for the whole exam, as would formerly have been necessary, but selectively. Examinees need only retake the papers they could not pass.

The A level was conceived after the Second World War to stretch the academic elite about 10 per cent of the population. It was never meant to be an all-purpose 18+ test for nearly half the age range. Of course we have had to "adjust" the standards. Otherwise nearly all the current entrants would fail.

If you are working on, say, Keats and Jane Austen, it make sense to cross-refer. They were contemporaries. What else do they have in common? How do they differ? Why?

How long can those English teachers keep it up? The "grade war", in which all schools are now embroiled, is ruthless. No school can afford to do anything which might "cost" even one grade in a single subject. League tables dominate everything.

Of course I am glad for any 18-year-old who has achieved good A-level results and is about to proceed to university. But I cannot pretend to believe that the wider access to A-level passes afforded by modularity is good news. It is not even honest.



Delighted pupils and their head teacher Steven Andrew from Sandringham School, St Albans, rewarded by Gillian Shephard

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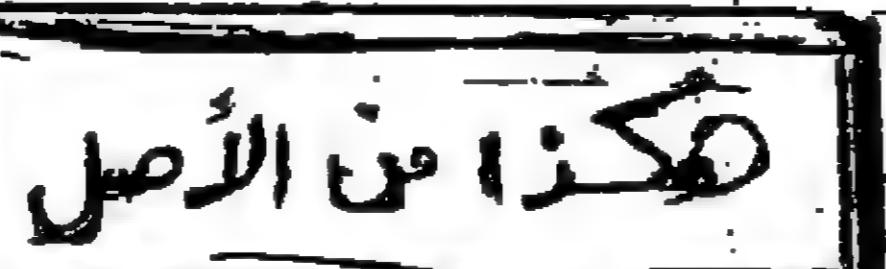


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## Top schools assemble for Ofsted Oscars

David Charter on award-winning schools in the eastern counties

A buzz went around Flitwick Lower School hall. The ministerial car had been spotted. "Mrs Shephard is here!" announced David Wynford-Jones, head teacher at Flitwick, recently identified as one of Bedfordshire's top primary schools.

Youngsters from 16 of the most successful schools in the eastern counties were soon flocking round for photographs with the Education and Employment Secretary.

They had assembled at the 320-pupil primary school to display highlights of the work which helped their schools to win the ultimate accolade.

Their reward for attending one of the 200 schools deemed outstanding, excellent or "good and improving" nationally by Ofsted, the inspection agency, was to be lauded by Gillian Shephard in her first appearance at a regional celebratory reception.

"Not many days pass without some education story on the front of newspapers," Mrs Shephard told the successful children, head teachers and governors.

"You will find the bad stories about education by far outnumber the good stories."

However, this was a good news day, she said. Her personal congratulations went out to all those present and her enthusiastic interest in each school's display undeniably helped create a feel-good factor in Flitwick.

It was not sensational, there was no great fanfare or champagne toast, but it was a public demonstration that not only negative messages come out of Ofsted.

Many teachers feel the inspection agency, via its mouthpiece and chief inspector Chris Woodhead, is responsible for at least some of the "bad stories" to which Mrs Shephard alluded. But it was Mr Woodhead's own idea to honour the very best schools annually identified by his agents. Throughout the year ministers have held similar ceremonies to deliver Ofsted "Oscars".

The three "outstanding" secondary schools at the eastern counties reception comprised two grant-maintained grammars and one county council comprehensive. There were six excellent primary schools and seven "good and improving" secondaries.

The outstanding selectives, Chelmsford County High School for Girls and Westcliff High School for Boys, both in Essex, both always prominent in examination tables, were no strangers to accolades. Neither was Presdales in Ware, Hertfordshire, the third outstanding school in the region, an oversubscribed all-girls comprehensive listed in *The Sunday Times State Schools Book* of top schools.

It is the less well-known primary and comprehensive schools which benefit most from their place on the chief inspector's pedestal.

Michael Stothard, head teacher for the past 24 years at John F. Kennedy Roman

Catholic School in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, agreed that recognition was important but quibbled with the "good and improving" terminology. Ofsted-speak often seems unflatteringly low-key even when meant to praise.

"If you have 200 schools out of 4,000 selected for recognition, it should be possible to find a phrase people would respond to more warmly," he says. "To be 'outstanding' you have virtually got to be selective. I don't see any harm in using a word like excellent if the school is excellent in all aspects except for having a comprehensive intake."

He adds: "It is good that the Secretary of State is present personally. We are a pretty beleaguered profession when it comes to press and publicity and so it is encouraging that Gillian Shephard is prepared to give up an afternoon to come along and say well done to schools."

Students from Sandringham School in St Albans, Hertfordshire, had little doubt that the ministerial praise, and the occasion, were welcome. Their school, created from two failing schools in 1988, has improved its examination performance every year since then and its display impressively stated its commitment to corporate ideals. The school's mission statement is "Everybody can be somebody".

Andrew Churchyard, 16, who attended the award ceremony, says: "It was interesting to see how these occasions work. I have not been to anything businesslike like this before. I like to pick up tips from speeches because in the future, who knows, I might have to speak in public."

And Ruth Rose, also 15, says: "I think that recognition is important because you constantly hear in the news that such-and-such a school is bad."

Steven Andrews, their head teacher, is also positive about the experience.

"There is precious little public praise for teachers, unfortunately. It is always good to have somebody saying you are doing really well but it does not produce in us a sense we have got to where we are going, or that we can rest on our laurels. We are a school committed to constant improvement."

Its nine-point "learning mission", reprinted in all pupils' homework diaries, includes the promise "we will not judge your achievements against some agreed average but will measure it against your previous best". It seemed appropriate that the school was being recognised for exactly this.

However, Mr Andrews adds: "Our teachers have just come back from a Royal Shakespeare Company week-end and we were the only co-educational comprehensive school involved, because of our commitment to Shakespeare. In some ways this was of greater benefit than being nominated as one of the best schools."

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## CRICKET

# Kent's title challenge dismissed by Walsh

By SIMON WILDE

**BRISTOL** (first day of four): Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent

NOW get out of that, Kent, bottom of the county championship for the first time this century last year, have trodden an implausible and romantic path in attempting to make amends by finishing top this summer, but they are rapidly running out of escape routes after a poor day's work at the Phoenix County Ground yesterday.

After taking the question-able decision to bat first, they were all out by mid-afternoon for 154 and, with the honourable exception of Trevor Ward, who batted skilfully for 3½ hours for 80, did not look like champions-in-waiting.

Ironically, Gloucestershire did. Their bowling was disciplined and their fielding

without a few difficulties, before bad light ended play for the day, and McCague, Headley and Ealham will relish the prospect of continuing the bowling today.

Kent had batted only minutes before they must have had second thoughts about taking first innings. Walker failing to the last ball of Walsh's first over, leg-before to a full-pitched delivery. The last thing that they wanted was Walsh, the West Indies captain, on the rampage and, although Fleming and Ward coped well to keep him at bay for the rest of his opening spell, he wreaked havoc after lunch.

By then Kent were already in desperate straits, having fallen prey to the gentler pace of Alleyne and Symonds. Alleyne accounted for Fleming, who steered a ball tamely to Lynch at second slip, and Symonds, normally a purveyor of off spin but now dispensing tidy, medium-paced leg cutters, dispatched Hooper and Long in the same over. Ealham, driving at Smith, gave the thinness of outside edges, which Russell plucked out of the sky to his right.

Kent lunged precariously on 94 for five, which soon became 101 for eight. Walsh, seeing the break, immediately raised his game after the interval and, in the space of six balls, had claimed the scalps of Cowdrey, playing his first championship game for ten weeks, Marsh and Patel.

McCague then gamely added 49 with Ward, who had seven partners depart in 25 overs, in the highest partnership of the innings, and coped well enough to raise doubts about Ward's tactics in turning down singles in order to protect his partner. In the end, Ward perished looking to make hay against Alleyne.

The admirable Walsh finished with four for 50, making him the leading wicket-taker in the country with 81 victims. Gloucestershire have offered him another two-year contract and he is likely to accept, having yesterday discounted West Indies Cricket Board plans to place its leading players on year-round contracts. "I don't think they have got the money to implement it at the moment," he said.

Officials at Lord's confirmed yesterday that Ed Giddins, the former Sussex fast bowler, is to appeal against his 20-month ban from first-class cricket. Giddins, who tested positive for cocaine in May, will have his case heard by the Cricket Council. He had hoped to rebuild his career by playing abroad, but has been unable to find a club.

sharp, Russell taking three outstanding catches.

It was Kent's lowest total of the season, possibly their most inept batting performance, as well, and, with four batting points squandered, they are now even more at the mercy of Leicestershire, who need to claim only two batting points today to eliminate them from the title race.

That said, Kent are not without hope of winning this match because it is being staged on what can only be described as a sporting pitch. With Long bowled by a ball that kept low from one end and the tall McCague struck on the helmet by Walsh at the other, batting was more a matter of survival than comfort.

Windows and Trainor, the Gloucestershire openers, negotiated 12 overs before tea and four balls afterwards, not



Mullally, of Leicestershire, wins his appeal for the wicket of Shah, leg-before in the match against Middlesex yesterday. Report, page 44

## Lancashire earn credit for national service

By IVO TENNANT

**EDGARSTON** (first day of four): Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 233 for two wickets against Lancashire

SO LANCASHIRE are having almost as much of a struggle to find a coach as Manchester City are in attracting a manager. At least the cricket club cannot be charged with not looking to the future. Without Mike Watkinson, who is in Hong Kong, and Michael Atherton who, in effect, is now employed by the England selectors, John Crawley was captain for the first time — and with some success.

Speaks, 29, has been told by Lancashire that he can leave if he wishes to do so. It is a time of urgent decision-making at Old Trafford, where the pitches have lost some pace and will be attended to during the winter. Nothing is more im-

portant, though, than the appointment of a prominent individual as coach. The committee, which met on Wednesday night, is determined to bring in somebody of international repute.

Having been spurned by Graham Gooch and Dennis Lillee, the committee could well look towards South Africa. Inquiries before the season about Jimmy Cook, once a prolific opening batsman, came to nothing, and the latest name to be mooted is Clive Rice, who runs the cricket academy. He would not come cheap.

As for the captaincy, Watkinson, who is representing England in the Hong Kong series, is mulling over

whether he wants to continue. Wasim Akram, who will return next summer, could become vice-captain in place of Atherton.

At the members' forum, which the club has agreed to stage on October 1, there will inevitably be concerns raised over the fact that Atherton will be allowed to rest during some championship matches next year, just as he was yesterday. To which Bob Bennett, the Lancashire chairman, will reply that it is the duty of a county to help England's cause.

Assuming that Atherton plays regularly for England next summer, he will, anyway, miss six championship matches. This year he has

played in eight. Some members will, understandably, want to know how Lancashire can make any headway in what, even at a club which has had so much success in the one-day game, remains the pre-eminent competition.

Atherton will take a benefit next year. Although, as with most prominent cricketers, this will be a nationwide affair, his absences will hardly assist fundraising at Old Trafford. He clearly needs periods of recuperation, yet Lancashire have need of him. It is greatly to their credit, considering that they are languishing near the foot of the championship table, that they are putting country before club.

## Eubank concern

**Boxing:** Putting on "the style on the Nile" — Chris Eubank's first comeback contest, in Cairo — could prove a tougher assignment for Eubank, the former world champion, than he imagined it would be when he decided to resume his career.

Yesterday he brushed aside

rumours that his bout with Luis Barrera, of Argentina, in the 25,000-capacity Cairo stadium on October 19, could turn out to be another "Hong Kong", where the bouts of Frank Bruno and Herbie Hide had to be called off at the last minute because of a lack of funds. A big television company is still being sought to buy the rights to the contest.

## John in action

**Rugby union:** Jason John, a former Great Britain sprinter, will make his debut for Moseley in the Courage Clubs Championship second division against Nottingham at The Reddings tomorrow. Moseley have dropped Andy Houston, the captain, Carl Hall, Craig Quick and Stuart Langley.

## Zulle gets away

**Cycling:** Alex Zulle, the Swiss rider waiting in the wings to take over the mantle of Tony Rominger, his compatriot who is now nearing retirement, finished third in the twelfth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday to increase his overall lead. The 188-kilometre stage ended in a mountain-top finish at Alto Naranco and was won by Danièle Nardello, of Italy, who, at one time with three others, had almost six minutes' advantage over the main pack.

## Club company

**Rugby league:** Super League clubs yesterday unveiled a new company, Rugby League (Europe) Limited, which will look after their interests in future — but stressed that they are not breaking away from the Rugby Football League.

## Doleful Durham cut down by DeFreitas

By PAT GIBSON

**DERBY** (first day of four): Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs behind Durham

DERBYSHIRE may no longer be in contention for the Britannic Assurance county championship, but there is still the little matter of prize-money to play for. They can increase their earnings from £9,000 to £30,000 by climbing from fifth place to second, and that was all the incentive they needed

yesterday to show hapless Durham no mercy.

A delayed start and five stoppages for either rain or bad light took 29 overs from an autumnal day, yet Derbyshire still have every reason to believe that they can beat the weather after bowling out Durham for 142 and then scoring 136 for two in reply from only 27 overs.

Nothing illustrated the difference in the fortunes of these two sides than the poignant sight of John Morris gazing wistfully across the ground where he learnt his cricket and

wondering whether he would ever be able to recapture the form that brought him more than the 14,000 runs in 12 years with Derbyshire and another 3,700 in his first two seasons at Durham.

He was the first of five victims yesterday for Phillip DeFreitas, whose control of seam and swing in the howling easterly wind which bent the poplar trees that are supposed to protect two sides of the ground was altogether too much for Durham.

Morris had made five when he edged DeFreitas to second

slip, which means that he has now scored 70 in his past 11 championship innings and only 410, at an average of 15, all season. "I have just got to forget this year and come back and score a stack of runs next season," he said.

It is to be hoped that the rest of the Durham side share his optimism. Without Sherwin Campbell, their discarded overseas player who is already on his way home, and Darren Blenkiron, who has been suspended over an alleged incident in which two club cars were damaged, they looked as

though they could hardly wait for the season to end, especially when Chris Adams, with 77 off 56 balls, including 13 fours and a six, and Dean Jones were adding 89 in 15 overs for the third Derbyshire wicket. □ Shaheen Warne, the leg-spin bowler, has only a 50-50 chance of being fit for Australia's tour to India next month. According to John Shokes, the Victoria coach, Warne who is recovering from surgery to a finger on his right hand, has been restricted to bowling medium-pace in pre-season practice sessions.

## Laney caps outstanding season

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

**JASON LANEY**, whose emergence has been a consoling factor in a disappointing campaign for Hampshire, was awarded his county cap yesterday and celebrated by scoring an unbeaten 76 at Southampton, where Hampshire reached 213 for two against Nottinghamshire.

Laney, who has scored more than a thousand runs in his first full season, added 147 for the first wicket with Giles White, which was only the county's second century opening stand of the season. Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire newcomer, dismissed White for 73 and Paul Whittaker without scoring, before Laney settled in with Robin Smith, his eyes set on his third century in successive matches.

**Derbyshire v Durham**

**DERBY** (first day of four): Durham won toss; Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs behind Durham

**Gloucestershire v Kent**

**BRISTOL** (first day of four): Kent won toss; Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent

**Gloucestershire v Kent**

**BRISTOL** (first day of four): Kent won toss; Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-147; 2-141; 3-147; 4-140; 5-140; 6-140; 7-140; 8-140; 9-140; 10-140; 11-140; 12-140; 13-140; 14-140; 15-140; 16-140; 17-140; 18-140; 19-140; 20-140; 21-140; 22-140; 23-140; 24-140; 25-140; 26-140; 27-140; 28-140; 29-140; 30-140; 31-140; 32-140; 33-140; 34-140; 35-140; 36-140; 37-140; 38-140; 39-140; 40-140; 41-140; 42-140; 43-140; 44-140; 45-140; 46-140; 47-140; 48-140; 49-140; 50-140; 51-140; 52-140; 53-140; 54-140; 55-140; 56-140; 57-140; 58-140; 59-140; 60-140; 61-140; 62-140; 63-140; 64-140; 65-140; 66-140; 67-140; 68-140; 69-140; 70-140; 71-140; 72-140; 73-140; 74-140; 75-140; 76-140; 77-140; 78-140; 79-140; 80-140; 81-140; 82-140; 83-140; 84-140; 85-140; 86-140; 87-140; 88-140; 89-140; 90-140; 91-140; 92-140; 93-140; 94-140; 95-140; 96-140; 97-140; 98-140; 99-140; 100-140; 101-140; 102-140; 103-140; 104-140; 105-140; 106-140; 107-140; 108-140; 109-140; 110-140; 111-140; 112-140; 113-140; 114-140; 115-140; 116-140; 117-140; 118-140; 119-140; 120-140; 121-140; 122-140; 123-140; 124-140; 125-140; 126-140; 127-140; 128-140; 129-140; 130-140; 131-140; 132-140; 133-140; 134-140; 135-140; 136-140; 137-140; 138-140; 139-140; 140-140; 141-140; 142-140; 143-140; 144-140; 145-140; 146-140; 147-140; 148-140; 149-140; 150-140; 151-140; 152-140; 153-140; 154-140; 155-140; 156-140; 157-140; 158-140; 159-140; 160-140; 161-140; 162-140; 163-140; 164-140; 165-140; 166-140; 167-140; 168-140; 169-140; 170-140; 171-140; 172-140; 173-140; 174-140; 175-140; 176-140; 177-140; 178-140; 179-140; 180-140; 181-140; 182-140; 183-140; 184-140; 185-140; 186-140; 187-140; 188-140; 189-140; 190-140; 191-140; 192-140; 193-140; 194-140; 195-140; 196-140; 197-140; 198-140; 199-140; 200-140; 201-140; 202-140; 203-140; 204-140; 205-140; 206-140; 207-140; 208-140; 209-140; 210-140; 211-140; 212-140; 213-140; 214-140; 215-140; 216-140; 217-140; 218-140; 219-140; 220-140; 221-140; 222-140; 223-140; 224-140; 225-140; 226-140; 227-140; 228-140; 229-140; 230-140; 231-140; 232-140; 233-140; 234-140; 235-140; 236-140; 237-140; 238-140; 239-140; 240-140; 241-140; 242-140; 243-140; 244-140; 245-140; 246-140; 247-140; 248-140; 249-140; 250-140; 251-140; 252-140; 253-140; 254-140; 255-140; 256-140; 257-140; 258-140; 259-140; 260-140; 261-140; 262-140; 263-140; 264-140; 265-140; 266-140; 267-140; 268-140; 269-140; 270-140; 271-140; 272-140; 273-140; 274-140; 275-140; 276-140; 277-140; 278-140; 279-140; 280-140; 281-140; 282-140; 283-140; 284-140; 285-140; 286-140; 287-140; 288-140; 289-140; 290-140; 291-140; 292-140; 293-140; 294-140; 295-140; 296-140; 297-140; 298-140; 299-140; 300-140; 301-140; 302-140; 303-140; 304-140; 305

# Master of reserve breaks his silence

Andrew Longmore says there is more to Kenny Dalglish's book than football

For a man so shy of publicity, yesterday must have been a day made in hell. A flood of questions and no chance to take refuge in his press conference catchphrase: "You saw it, you wrote it." This time Kenny Dalglish has seen it and Kenny, with judicious use of a ghost, has written it. Yesterday he had to break the habit of a lifetime by talking about it, which he did with humour, honesty and endless patience. He even offered an apology of sorts to his old inquisitors for his deadpan media-face — "Maybe I could have done better at that, but I never missed a press conference. I just didn't make the contribution you guys would have liked."

Had Dalglish been just another master of the cliché, his guttural monosyllables would have been quite acceptable. The frustration was that you knew — and he took a delight in knowing, too — that there was a lot more to be said, if he chose to say it; about the tragedies of Heyes and Hillsborough, about leaving Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, about Jack Walker's millions and winning the championship, about Jock Stein and Alex Ferguson, who, for a manager supposedly in permanent feud with his fellow Scot, writes a robustly respectful foreword. He has a sharp, analytical mind and a simple eloquence.

Silence, though, has been his main weapon of control, has made him one of the most bewitching characters in the game and prompted his publishers to invest heavily in ending it. This week, 100,000 copies of his autobiography will hit the bookshops and, if barely a half of those are sold, it will still be the biggest-selling sportsbook of the year.

At his first signing, in London yesterday afternoon, there was a glimpse of Dalglish's common touch, so revered in Liverpool. Not for Dalglish the swift signature and the "next please" favoured

by Margaret Thatcher. He signed books, season tickets, Liverpool shirts and cards, shook hands with every purchaser and, in the manner of his playing days, did not falter through the whole match.

So what does the book reveal of Kenny Dalglish after all these years? A man of compassion and thought, certainly, of passion and honesty, of arrogance that is the calling card of every great player and, more rare, the ability to step outside himself and see his faults. Dalglish's legend has been founded not just on his supreme mastery of the simple game of football, but also on the depth and dignity of his character.

This is more than a football story, much more than the average ghosted autobiography. There is no kiss and tell here, no enticing headline-catching scandals. That is not Dalglish's style.

**H**e was a mite miffed by the way that he was forced to leave Blackburn rather than the reason for his departure. "We had both come to the same conclusion, they just came to it a little earlier than me," he said with that characteristic half-smile that speaks volumes. One of the most poignant revelations is that he would have returned to Liverpool as manager in the summer after his resignation had the club only asked before appointing Graeme Souness — but that is a rare regret.

Not the least of Dalglish's fears is to emerge from a lifetime's devotion to football in control of his life, as he says, to choose the people that he feels comfortable working with. "My adult life," he writes in the opening lines "has simply been a time of trying to fulfil childhood dreams." Asked how he had done, he replied: "Not bad, not bad." Ever the master of the understatement.

**D**alglish: *My Autobiography*. Published by Hodder and Stoughton (£16.99).

by Michelle McGann, 26, is a Floridian making her debut for the United States team, and is as outgoing as her presentation would suggest. More often than not, lips and nails are painted bright red and there is always lots of glitz and glitter, carried off with all-American panache. And there are the hats.

If the wind abates and the rain holds off, Chepstow is in for a treat, for McGann's hat company has made up a few broad-brimmed models, with

leading, home-grown professionals, but is playing in the Solheim Cup for only the second time.

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## Rivals put on style in battle of striking contrast

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THEY are both tall, striking, hit a golf ball a long way and are key members of their respective Solheim Cup sides. In most other respects, they are completely different.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, 35, divorced, mother of a 12-year-old daughter named Laura, is the understated epitome of a model professional. Elegant and assured, she is quiet and self-contained. She has been a top-class golfer for 20 years, the last ten as one of Europe's



De Lorenzi, left, is known for her understated elegance on and off the course; McGann, has a more glitzy and glamorous approach

leading, home-grown professionals, but is playing in the Solheim Cup for only the second time.

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If the wind abates and the rain holds off, Chepstow is in for a treat, for McGann's hat company has made up a few broad-brimmed models, with

red, white and blue, and stars and stripes patriotic to the fore. They are light, summer things, however, and in practice, Kelly Robbins, who partners McGann in the top foursome this morning, quickly got fed up with being on 'hat alert'. "You've got to wear a baseball cap," she instructed, "because I'm not chasing your hat all over the place." Not the kind of advice

Dale Reid will need to offer her partner, de Lorenzi.

The Frenchwoman, who lives in Barcelona, was Europe's No 1 in 1988 and 1989, but failed to win a point in the inaugural Solheim Cup at Lake Nona in 1990. She will expect more this week. Having worked hard to eradicate a sway from her swing, she is, her peers believe, hitting the ball harder and better than

ever. She won three times on the women's tour last year and ensured her selection by heading the Solheim Cup points table by a distance.

Two years ago, Mickey Walker, the Europe team captain, asked de Lorenzi to be the travelling reserve, the cheerleading role that Kathryn Marshall — and McGann for the United States — fulfilled with gusto after de



Lorenzi declined. "Perhaps it made me work harder, to be sure I was on the team next time," she said.

**M**cgann, too, was determined to play this time. A diabetic since the age of 13 and a professional since she was 18, she threatened for a while to be more style than substance. She looked good and won money, but winning tournaments took longer as

she learned to cope, mentally and physically.

However, once she won for the first time last year she has three victories already and is bubbling with confidence. So is de Lorenzi and, whatever their results, there is one certainty — McGann and de Lorenzi will do it in style.

### GUIDE TO THE SOLHEIM CUP TEAMS

#### Europe

**Helen Alfredsson**

Aged 31. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 8, won 4, halved 1, lost 4. Likes to travel, tanning. Impetuous but no fool. Puts her hat into golf and off to the bars.

**Lisa Hackney**

Aged 28. Debut.

Pleasant, quiet, determined. Touted as a partner for Davies, so no mug Joker — spreads Marmite on sunglasses.

**Trish Johnson**

Aged 30. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 5.

An Arsenal fanatic. Loves putting but would rather score goals. Sends her mother to the Great Wall and the Tae Kwon Do.

**Alison Nicholas**

Aged 29. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 5.

Five foot but strong — physically and mentally. A member of Christians in Sport. Spout. Conscientious.

**Marie-Laure de Lorenzi**

Aged 35. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

French. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach. Likes to go to the beach.

**Kathryn Marshall**

Aged 29. Debut.

Reserve and cheerleader in '94. Wrote the team song — sharp eye and ear. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Joanne Murray**

Aged 29. Debut.

Relaxed attitude but a hard player. Good nerve, lots of heart. Curtis Cup winner '92. Likes a cuppa.

**Liselotte Neumann**

Aged 30. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

German. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Mickey Walker (captain)**

Aged 43. Solheim Cup captain 1990, '92, '94.

World No 3. Utilized by the odd bad break. Never gives up. Ice hockey fan.

**Pat Bradley**

Aged 31. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

French. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Brandie Burton**

Aged 24. Solheim Cup 1992, '94.

World No 14. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Betty King**

Aged 41. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

American. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Patricia Davies**

Aged 28. Debut.

Reserve and cheerleader in '94. Wrote the team song — sharp eye and ear. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Michelle McGann**

Aged 26. Debut.

Reserve and cheerleader in '94. Wrote the team song — sharp eye and ear. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Kelly Robbins**

Aged 26. Solheim Cup 1994. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

American. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Patty Sheehan**

Aged 39. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

American. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Val Skinner**

Aged 35. Debut.

Serious, analytical. Admiral in the navy to the state of Nebraska. She and her family own a course there.

**Judy Rankin (captain)**

Aged 51. Debut.

Strolls down the middle — on and off the course. Modest, gracious, worth listening to. Likes packing. Husband Yippy, son Tusi.

**Joan Jones**

Aged 36. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

A hard worker and a scraper. Practical player, likes art and crafts. Her golf is improving with age.

**Chris Johnson**

Aged 33. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

A dedicated, pensive. Hall of Famer. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**McG Mallon**

Aged 33. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

A sweetie. Crackles, smiling and fiercely competitive. Has three brothers and two sisters. Haha with the punches.

**Michelle McGann**

Aged 26. Debut.

Reserve at The Greenbrier. Outgoing, a bit of a show-off. Likes to travel, eat, drink, go to the beach.

**Dottie Pepper**

Aged 31. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 11, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.

Lucky, fiery, intense. Brings a baseball mentality to golf. Winning is all.

□ Compiled by Patricia Davies

## Course of love runs true for Faldo

By MEL WEBB

**NICK FALDO** is reportedly playing in the Loch Lomond World Invitational this week for nothing, which means that Lyle Anderson, the owner of the course, has got a pretty good deal. Faldo waxed lyrical yet again about the Loch Lomond lay-out yesterday: as public relations exercises go, he is doing a great job and it is costing Anderson not a penny. Beat that for value.

Faldo had a 68, three under par, to trail Jamie Spencer by a shot alongside Darren Clarke and José Cerezo, then spoke so enthusiastically about the course that it was almost possible to see the warm glow that was obviously surrounding him.

On a day of bright sunshine, the only impediment to good scoring were a robust breeze, the degree of difficulty of the course and greens that were perfect of surface but running at a daunting 11 on the Stimpmeter. Mere trifles, all that for rest.

No amount of disturbed air

was going to upset Faldo. He had done a bit of self-analysis on the practice ground, arrived at the conclusion that his clubhead was doing something on the downswing that ordinary people would not understand, and eradicated it.

The result was birdies on the 1st and 3rd, but more

important as Faldo saw it, were the scrambled pars that he achieved on the 4th and 5th.

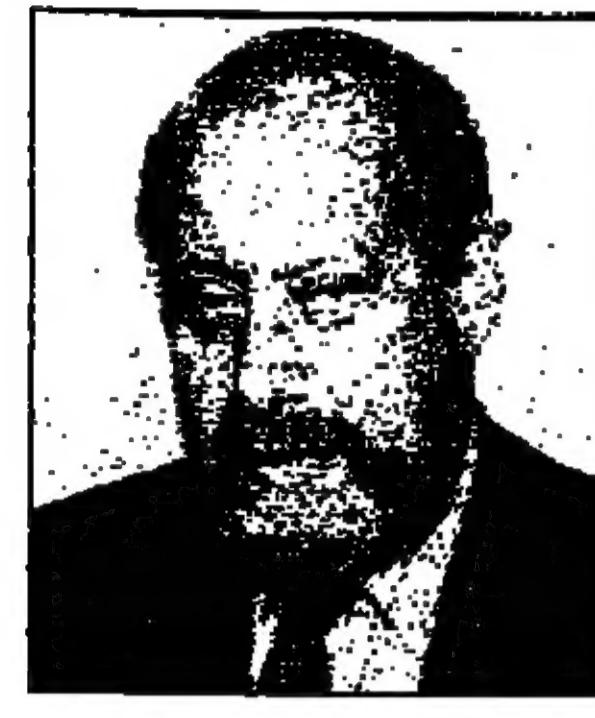
"That made me feel good," he said. Further birdies followed on the 7th and 15th, with a solitary bogey on the 14th being the only blot on an otherwise exemplary round.

He likes it here, quite obviously; and they say that the fishing is quite good, too — yet another reason for Faldo the angler to be besotted by the banks of Loch Lomond.

**EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES** (GB and Ireland unless stated): 67 — Campbell, D (GB); 68 — McIlroy, R (Ireland); 69 — Baker, R (GB); 70 — Campbell, D (GB); 70 — D Howell, T (GB); 71 — McIlroy, R (GB); 72 — D Howell, T (GB); 72 — Campbell, D (GB); 72 — D Howell, T (GB); 73 — Campbell, D (GB); 73 — D Howell, T (GB); 74 — Campbell, D (GB); 74 — D Howell, T (GB); 75 — Campbell, D (GB); 75 — D Howell, T (GB); 76 — Campbell, D (GB); 76 — D Howell, T (GB); 77 — Campbell, D (GB); 77 — D Howell, T (GB

# Masterminding big push for glory

FREUD ON  
FRIDAY



**S**o I sat back in the black leather chair. Magnusson looked me in the eye and said: "Your specialist subject is the world bobsleigh push-start championship 1994-1996. You have two minutes starting ... now, what do the letters FMBS stand for?"

*Fédération Monégasque Bobsleigh et Skeleton.*

Correct. Name the best-selling book by Great Britain's director of coaching and performance?

*Flanagan's Run* by Tom McNab.

Correct. What is the length of the timed run?

40 metres.

Correct. What is the gradient of the course?

There is no gradient at the start, -4.07% at the finish.

Correct. What is the weight of the four-man bobsleigh?

310 kilograms.

Correct. What medals did the British squad win in the championship of 1995?

Silver in the four-man, bronze in the two-man.

Correct. Who was Monaco's No 1 driver in each of the championships?

Prince Albert of Monaco.

Correct. Name the winning team in the 1996 championship.

United States of America.

Correct. How many countries competed in 1996?

Correct. Which domestic appliance company sponsors the British team?

Zanussi.

Correct. Which team is led by a Super Bowl running back?

Puerto Rico.

Correct. Where is the competition held?

On the harbour at Monte Carlo.

Correct. What is the price of a taxi from the harbour to Loew's Hotel?

Could you repeat that question?



Monte Carlo or bust: the Holland team takes to the rails at the world bobsleigh push-start championship in Monaco. Photograph: Martin Beddall

What is the price of a taxi... stop the clock. Why are you crying?

I paid the taxi.

The four-man bobsleigh competition is the most important in the push championship: each team is allowed three runs, the two best times count for medals. Great Britain is well fancied — the team consists of Mark Tout, driver; Courtney Rumbolt, Dean Ward and Lenny Paul, squad captain. Speed and weight are important: crews should ideally be cohesive, tight-tipped, explosive.

There is a five metre start area in which the team positions itself for take-off: two men on the port side, one starboard, one at the back. They take deep breaths, clasp each other's hands to manifest togetherness and optimism, rise to their toes, lower themselves to the push position and, at a word of command, they grip the sleigh and run like hell.

Forty metres from the start

to denote false or clear pushes. The sleigh is then pushed back to the start where the next team gathers for its brief moment of glory.

The terraces, what the French call *les tribunes*, hold 250 spectators, and about that number again watch and cheer from the promenade. Behind *les tribunes* is an upmarket swimming pool where toplessness is *de rigueur*.

With 5.49sec to beat, Great

temperature in the middle 50s, hardly any wind. With the exception of Holland and Hungary, every country beats six seconds: United States are the fastest with 5.49sec. The commentator, who speaks only French, says something nice about every push, regardless of the time taken. *"Une très bonne opération"* and *"Vraiment excellent!"*

With 5.49sec to beat, Great

Britain come to the start line, manifest a four-handed clasp, take up positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board. The timer shows 5.49sec, and those of us with Union Jacks wave them about our heads. Then we notice that the barrier above the finish line is swinging, broken by the shoulder of our No 3 man, who did not lower himself sufficiently quickly.

Having had no morning run, the team is eliminated.

"Defeated with honour; a victory in our hearts if not in the book," McNab said.

"There is still the two-man competition," I tell him. McNab looks sick. Britain sort of misunderstood the entry procedure.

The Lithuanians got it right and the Norwegians, Czechs, Japanese and Ukrainians — but we failed to complete the right form.

"Was it the foreign language that defeated us?"

No, it was in English.

In the four-man final, Uni-

ted States II were 0.07sec faster than United States I with the Czechs third. Barring accidents, like derailment, teams show staggering consistency in their times: the dependable Swiss achieved three pushes within 0.04sec.

At the awards dinner that night, His Serene Highness (the local translator pronounces the "g" in Highness) Prince Albert only got two out of ten for microphone technique. Baron de Coubertin maintained: being there is what matters. I was there.

One of the sponsors asked if

I thought that the sport would catch on in England. I thought that the event lacked that element of danger which brings people to the piste. I told him that our weather was against it: on reflection, if we had four Linford Christies we could conquer the world of *Le Push* — an esoteric sport bound by the tightest of rules.

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**They take up their positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board'**

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# Woodbines and lager: a critic confesses

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

A few weeks ago on *Mastermind* a nice elderly woman chose as her specialist subject the life and works of Geoffrey Studdard-Kennedy. It was one of those occasions when the viewer, hoping to chip in with a few yelped answers, sinks back in defeat before even the words "starting... NOW" are enunciated. I made a mental note to write to *Mastermind*: could the more obscure specialist subjects be contextualised, please? Nobody has heard of Geoffrey Studdard-Kennedy except this woman. "What was his nickname in the trenches of the First World War?" asked Magnus. The woman smiled. "Woodbine Willie," she said affectively. By the end of the round, it was possible to infer he was a war poet who inspired devotion, nothing more.

But now it turns out that at home in London, Ian Hislop, cuddly Editor of *Private Eye* (and media star), was yelling out the

answers right and left. Because in his absorbing and well-made *Cast-  
terbury Tales* last night on Channel 4, the handsome Studdard-Kennedy came to the fore, as a charismatic leader of Christian socialists waging crusades against social injustice after 1918. How did the Church of England cope with the First World War? It was a question well worth asking, because the answer explains a lot that has happened since. While its leaders at home urged the mass killing of Germans, at the front the chaplains revolted in every sense. "These things need not be," wrote one. And among these "radicalised" clergy, Woodbine Willie was so famous that I kept thinking of that woman from *Mastermind*, switching off the telly and saying: "Oh, everyone knows all this."

Last night's programme was the first of three and left the story of the Church of England in the 20th century languishing around 1930, when the populace was fed up with it again. It wasn't as dour as it sounds, incidentally, despite the footage of trench burials and cemeteries. As presenter and interviewer, Hislop struck the perfect note of authority, conviction and human interest: he also laughed at people's jokes, which was nice of him. Mary and Dora of Thaxted recited the furore caused by their vicar hanging out the red flag in church: Cambridge undergraduates used to tear it down and burn it. Hislop giggled. "They came back ever so many times," they said, to Hislop's delight. "We used to look forward to it," they confided, "not a lot else going on."

Gillian Lacey's historical quest in *Picture This!* (BBC2) was more singular than Ian Hislop's and a lot less useful. Having bought an Edwardian photograph album on a bookstall 20 years ago, she

always vaguely wondered who the people were. Who was "F.S.S.," for example? And why did he pose beside animals he'd killed?

For the purposes of this documentary, she set out to learn the identity and fate of the people in the pictures... and she did it. Mostly. And that's it.

The word "Huh?" hung above this pointless documentary, frame by frame. After all, it is not the

slightest surprise that the toffs in these photographs really existed, or that a few people still remember them. They lived and died, and they did not connect in any way with the maker of this film. Lacey became interested in Rosemary, whose album this appeared to be, so finally she found Rosemary's grave and Rosemary's old chaffeur. But Rosemary remained a stranger to her. Standing on the same spot as Rosemary — to take precisely the same side-view of a house, or a vista with church — had no significance. "I sense her loneliness stayed with her for life," said Lacey at the end. "Really?" I thought. "So what?"

There is an argument, of course, that if God cares for every little sparrow that falls, so should we. But we live in a tough, market economy in which people can zap to other channels, and *Album* needed a twist. Rosemary had to be Lacey's long-lost grandmother

— at least. Odd, too, that one of the most heavily accented clues — "I heard she was on the stage" — was repeatedly ignored.

The banality and witlessness of *Neverwhere* (BBC2) are becoming entertaining — a shocking state of affairs. In a daring experiment never before attempted by a television critic, I prepared myself for last night's second episode by consuming a small bottle of lager, which freed me up to laugh. The much-vaunted "Floating Market" in the London underworld was hilariously banal. "Looks like the Kensington Superstore in 1972," I sniggered tipsy, and fell asleep. It goes without saying, incidentally, however had the telly, don't try this at home.

Finally, while the comic talent showcase format generally makes a deep Bong sound like a death-knell (whatever happened to the

*Pamela Stephenson Christmas Show*, eh?) back on Channel 4, *Never Mind the Horrocks* was extremely funny and well produced. By a clever inspiration, Jane Horrocks did not appear in every sketch, thus giving the viewer a rare chance to relax. Being continually amazed at a performer's versatility can tax one's good will. Remember how Roy Castle used to get on our nerves tap-dancing and playing the trumpet? But the main innovation of *Never Mind the Horrocks* was the hiring of good writers. A sketch called "The Sixty Second Relationship" was a small classic, beautifully performed, meanwhile the only obvious isn't-she-versatile sketch entailed a woman having to be exorcised. "Roy's my family now Frank," she said, in a startlingly accurate Pat Butcher voice. She was possessed, you see. "She's possessed by the spirit of *EastEnders*," said her helper. "She hasn't smiled for nine years."

6.00am Business Breakfast (39092)

7.00BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (34223)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8395117)

9.20 Style Challenge (s) (200551) 9.45

Kilroy (s) (1000117) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7040)

11.00 News and weather (4390949)

11.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational. Coverage of the day's play (s). Includes News at Noon (32410136)

1.00pm News and weather (Ceefax) (37310)

1.30 Regional News and weather (45042827)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (32310846)

2.00 Racing from Newbury and International Golf. Live coverage of the second round from Loch Lomond and a three-race card from Newbury (635881)

3.50 Barney (r) (s) (4521933) 3.55 Dear Mr Barker (s) (6948732) 4.10 Jonny Quest — the Real Adventures (Ceefax) (7302488) 4.35 Grange Hill (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4528594) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7610310) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (3214469)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (7947788)

6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (3911)

6.30 Regional news magazines (643)

7.00 Muppets Tonight! Frantic family entertainment, featuring Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy. Tonight's special guest, Sandra Bullock finds herself re-enacting her role in *Speed* (Ceefax) (s) (258223)

7.25 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (416136)

8.00 **New!** This is Your Life. Michael Aspel surprises another personality when he produces the Big Red Book (Ceefax) (s) (7049)

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Hyacinth gets very excited when she discovers that her next-door-neighbour, Emmer, is rehearsing an amateur production of the musical *The Boyfriend* starring Patricia Routledge (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6556)

9.00 News; regional news and weather (Ceefax) (4556)

9.30 Dangerfield: Treasure. Paul Dangerfield finds himself entangled in a very dangerous situation when the asthmatic grandson of an Asian doctor is abducted. Starring Nigel Le Vaillant (Ceefax) (s) (460265)

10.20 Parkinson: the Interviews. In the last of the series Michael Parkinson recalls his interviews with Diana Rigg and the outrageous Miss Piggy. Last in the series (Ceefax) (s) (791827)

11.00 FILM: Cabaret (1972). Bob Fosse directed and choreographed this Kander and Ebb musical, won eight Oscars and confirmed Liza Minnelli a screen star. A love affair develops between a cabaret singer and a naive young Englishman in the decadent Berlin cafe society of the 1930s (Ceefax) (77198)

1.00 FILM: Son of Frankenstein (1939, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi. The third in Universal's Frankenstein series: the baron's offspring tries to revive the monster and teach him some manners. Directed by Rowland V Lee (366266)

2.35am-2.40 Weather (492934)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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6.00am Open University: Healing the Spine (203617) 6.25 Shropshire in the 16th Century (2039592) 6.50 The Church of Santa Maria del Miracoli, Venice (3544335)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8417846)

7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9781316) 7.55 Cartoon Critters (r) (Ceefax) (211372) 8.25 The Greedyaurus Gang (r) (7121204) 8.25 Spider (r) (6137662) 8.35 Lassie (r) (2308046)

9.00 French Experience (5302407)

9.15 Business Studies (108961) 9.45 Watch (402730) 10.00 Playdays (59845) 10.30 What? When? Where? Why? (555204) 10.45 Revista (5557059) 11.00 Look and Read (302907) 11.20 Short Circuit (549488) 11.40 English Time (3037845) 12.00 English File (Ceefax) (29262) 12.30pm Working Lunch (20933) 1.04 Scene (Ceefax) (55952)

1.30 Technology Starters (4506409)

1.45 Words and Pictures (5052204)

2.00 The Greedyaurus Gang (r) (8278939) 2.05 Spider (r) (9763420)

2.10 Open View (6478957)

2.15 Plaid Cymru Conference. Dafydd Wigley's keynote speech (5511159)

3.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (778648)

3.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational (s). Includes News at 3.55 (7089601)

6.05 The Munsters (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (83540)

6.30 Leeds International Piano Competition (s) (404001)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to change and alteration

6.00 Bottom. The hapless duo decide to spend two weeks camping. Last in series (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2198)



The Swally Brothers (9.30pm)

9.30 Pulp Video. Fast-moving comedy sketch from Scotland. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (17469)

10.00 The Fall Guy. Danny Brown takes his revenge on practical jokers. Special guests this week are Pauline Quirke, Hattie Hayridge and top chef Anthony Worrall Thompson (Ceefax) (s) (258181)

10.30 Newlight (Ceefax) (829597)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s) (110407)

11.45 Seinfeld (Ceefax) (s) (564730)

12.00am International Goff: The Solheim Cup. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of the opening match (s) (4182247)

12.55 Weatherview (5232341)

1.00 FILM: Claire's Knee (1970) starring Jean Claude Brialy, Aurora Cozzi and Béatrice Romand. Just prior to his wedding, a diplomat takes a holiday in the lakeside town of Annecy where he becomes obsessed with a friend's teenage daughter. Directed by Eric Rohmer (7972065). Ends at 2.45

2.45am-2.50 Weather (4929347)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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6.00am GMTV (9289339)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (1455812)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (3593933)

10.00 The Time... the Place (2464681)

10.35 This Morning (42486117)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7678372)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (2080407)

12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (8921556) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (9767481) 2.55 Yan Can Cook (s) (1529049)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7793778)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7792049)

3.30 Jays World (5983681)

3.40 **NEW!** The Adventures of Dendy. A new series of animated stories from Elisabeth Beresford, who created the Wombles (6950117)

3.55 Oscar and Friends (4515372) 4.00 Roger and the Rottertots (6428287)

4.15 Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (Teletext) (7396827) 4.40 Fun House (Teletext) (3831310)

5.10 Let's Go (321240)

5.15 A Country Practice (s) (2348136)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (4830001)

6.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational (s). Includes News at 3.55 (7089601)

6.05 The Munsters (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (83540)

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1.00 FILM: The Big Picture (5052204)

1.30 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational



## FOOTBALL 41

The day Dalglish finally brought himself to book

# SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

## TENNIS 42

Rusedski to open Britain's account tie in Davis Cup tie



Solheim Cup contest presents thrill of sporting combat in purest form

## Europe united in victory quest

By JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

AT St Pierre, Chepstow, soon after breakfast this morning, the opening strokes will be played in one of the team events that have added enormous lustre to the game of golf these past few years and become such a compelling attraction. It was not just golfers who were bewitched and enthralled by the events of the Walker and Ryder Cups last September and the Curtis Cup at Killarney last June. It was those who follow sport.

Now it is the turn of the Solheim Cup between 12 women professionals from Europe and 12 from the United States, and the soundest advice for the initiated and uninitiated is to get across the Severn Bridge by hook or by crook for the start of the three-day competition. It is matchplay not strokeplay and hallelujah for that. Tickets are on sale at the gate.

This is as pure as professional sport can be. It is rare these days to see people who are paid to play sport giving



Trish Johnson, of Europe, raises her putter in salute after sinking a long putt on the 13th green during practice at St Pierre yesterday

such commitment to an event for which they receive no direct financial recompense. That is one of its appeals. Another is the sight of competitors who are normally accustomed to caring only for themselves uniting in pursuit of victory.

At stake is honour, the privilege of representing your country or continent and how each individual looks at it is indicative of their own cast of mind. For the home side's Dale Reid, and, one suspects, the Americans' Dottie Pepper and Brandie Burton, it's simply a matter of winning. It does not matter whom the opponent is. "I enjoy beating anybody," Reid said. "I don't care whether they're Iraqis or Americans."

For Marie-Laure de Lorenzi the appeal is one that would gladden the hearts of Jean Monnet, the founder of the Common Market. "I don't think about winners and losers," the 35-year-old said. "I was born in France, I live in Spain, my heart is for Europe. I represent all Europe." She was asked whether she believed in a common currency? "Of course," she replied.

The common currency that both teams seek is a win. Mickey Walker's chances of captaining a successful side for the second time were diminished when the teams were enlarged from the 10 who competed in 1994 to the 12 who will compete in four foursomes and four fourballs on each of the first two days and 12 singles on the third. It is agreed the Americans have greater depth; ergo, expanding the size of the teams gives them an edge.

Walker sees it as no more than a superiority on paper, however, not one that necessarily translates into a superiority on the course. "Everybody knows that match play is different from

strokeplay," she said. "In matchplay the mentality and psychology is different and Europe has already proved that rankings don't really matter much in matchplay situations." Much will depend on her own leadership skills and motivational powers.

Much will depend, too, on Laura Davies, Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann, who are respectively the first three players in the world rankings and expected to perform according to their status. Significantly, these three as well as Helen Alfredson, Reid, Catrin Nilmark, de Lorenzi and Alison Nicholas, who have competed in most of the matches, are included in this

morning's opening foursomes when Walker has chosen to deal pairings filled with strength and experience. The ace in Walker's hands is Davies, playing the best golf of her life. For all the spit-in-your-eye approach of Pepper and Burton, which makes them such formidable

matchplayers, there is no one in the United States team who can match Davies's length or ability if she is at her best. "She is incredible," Burton said of Davies. "She has taken the world by storm this year. She is obviously No 1 in the world right now."

Davies believes the match will be settled by putting. "I've never seen so many putts holed as we did at Dalmahoy," Davies said. "The Americans did the same at The Greenbrier. Putting will decide it." Judy Rankin, the United States captain, believes the weather will be influential, the malevolent wind that blew yesterday adding an extra dimension to the challenges posed by the 6,356-yard course.

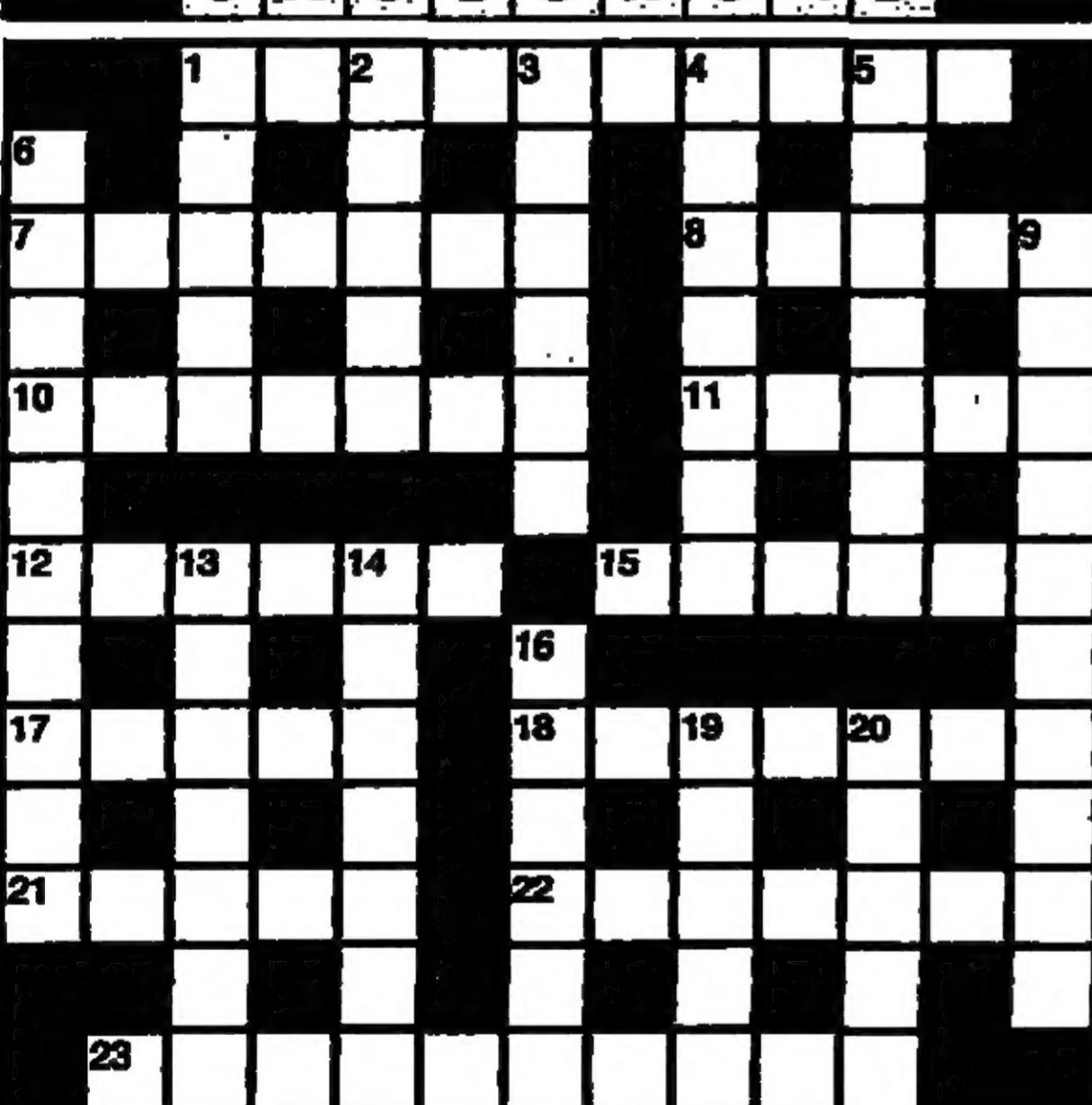
Yet there is one more factor to be considered and that is the phenomenon that is Davies. At Dalmahoy four years ago, Davies and Nicholas were the first pair off and when Davies used her strength to reach the first green with a massive stroke with a driver from the sodden fairway, it set off a chain reaction that first brought her and Nicholas victory by one hole and continued to spread throughout her team until Europe had won 11½-6½ on Sunday evening.

There are 28 points at stake between two teams that each have three newcomers to this competition. Home advantage may be sufficient to tip matters Europe's way by a slender one point, 14½-13½.

### TODAY'S DRAWS

Europe players first  
0800: A Sorenstam and C Nilmark v K Robbie and M McGinn  
0815: L Davies and A Nicholas v P Sheehan and R Jones  
0830: L de Lorenzi and D Reid v B Dalton and V Sorenstam  
0845: H Alfredson and L Neumann v D Pepper and B Burton

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 892

## Leicestershire close in on title

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Middlesex

IT MAY be stretching a point to say that Leicester has waited anxiously for the revival of its county side, or that the city turned out in force to acclaim it, but Grace Road did have an unaccustomed air of buzz and buoyancy yesterday. There were 2,000 present to see James Whitaker's side close in on the county championship and, despite a truncated day, they were not disappointed.

While Leicestershire were bowling out Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points, their only remaining rivals were treading water. Kent were dismissed for 154 at Bristol and are now virtually eliminated: rain prevented Surrey from making a start at the Oval.

It was, in many ways, a

routine day at the office for Leicestershire. The pitch had some variable bounce, the admirable quintet of seam bowlers shared all the wickets and some spectacular slip catches were held. That Middlesex made more than seemed likely after declining to 76 for six was due almost entirely to a three-hour innings by Mark Ramprakash.

Raymond Illingworth was on hand to cast an affectionate eye over the place that he ruled so masterfully during the 1970s and, for all the striking improvements in seating and practice facilities, he will have felt that some things had not changed. The hangar-like eyecores known as The Meet still casts a shadow and among the flat-capped and rugged crowd on a blustery day stood an unabashed cheerleader.

In Illingworth's day, this role was played by an elderly gentleman known to all as the Foghorn, for the fact that he would loudly announce his arrival by bellowing his list of exhortations from outside the gates. Since his pass-

ing, the vacancy has evidently been filled by an unmissable character named Lewis — black, incorrigibly noisy, dressed in Sunday league shirt and ready to greet each wicket with a dance.

Lewis dropped reverentially to his knees amid an animated crowd gathered round the dressing-room area to cheer Leicestershire from the field at 3.15pm. Although the first part

of his assignment was complete, however, Whitaker will have had a nagging feeling that Middlesex had made too many.

They can have chosen to bat only because they had three spin bowlers in the side and, with six wickets down at lunch, it was not looking a clever move; but the bounce could remain uneven throughout this game. Given clear weather, which is not predict-

ed, it would be unlikely to require a fourth day.

Millers began by needlessly confronting Weekes, head to head, after his third ball of the game had produced a rejected appeal. He soon had his man, caught at third slip, but the incisive spell came from Mullally at the other end. He struck three consecutive batsmen on the helmet and took the next three wickets, including those of Gatting and Shah. Simmons, by now, had hobbed off the field with a twisted ankle but, strong as an ox, returned within half-an-hour, instantly swooping to his right for a one-handed slip catch as Wells took two wickets in his first over. Ramprakash played in a shrewd, block-or-bash style. Dropped on 26, he interspersed correct defence with uncere- monious treatment of anything loose.

When Leicestershire began their reply, they suffered a rare failure, edging a good one from Fay. There was to be no further progress after tea for the champions in-waiting.

## Hill offers hint of ruthless streak

FROM OLIVER HOLT  
IN ESTORIL

LIKE the Spanish Americans and the Germans that Bob Dylan wrote about, Damon Hill believes too, now that he has God on his side. More than that, he has a points advantage over Jacques Villeneuve, his Formula One world drivers' championship rival, and he hinted, when he arrived here yesterday, that his new religious backing notwithstanding, he might be prepared to use force to preserve it.

Hill crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza a fortnight ago on only the sixth lap, but still maintained his 13-point championship lead over Villeneuve, his Canadian Williams-Renault team-mate,

because of Villeneuve's own misfortunes in a race eventually won by the Ferrari of Michael Schumacher. "If I learnt anything from Monza," Hill joked yesterday, "it is that God is truly on the side of Ferrari and he also wants me to win the championship. For me to knock myself out of the race and not lose any points was something of a miracle."

Hill, who is rumoured to be on the verge of signing for Jordan, can now afford to finish the Portuguese Grand Prix here on Sunday in a position that brings him three fewer points than his rival and still clinch his first world drivers' title. That situation led to him being pressed, yesterday, over whether he would be prepared to barge Villeneuve off the track if push came to shove.

Hill made all the right noises about sportsmanship and winning on merit, but also refused to discount getting rough with Villeneuve if he was provoked. His studied ambiguity created a flurry of excitement.

"I aim to get pole position, lead into the first corner and not see another soul for the rest of the race," Hill said. "There are all sorts of views about how drivers should conduct themselves, but I do not have any ambitions to be involved in any sort of questionable tactics. If I am in the lead, I will defend it vigorously, but I do not want to resort to unfair tactics. I believe I can win the race cleanly."

"So you would not deliberately take Jacques off, then," someone asked. "Wouldn't I?" Hill said.

## Lee despairs at Bassett's late refusal

By DAVID MADDOCK

TO LOSE one manager may be regarded as a misfortune, but to lose two looks like carelessness in the extreme. After announcing on Wednesday evening that he had persuaded David Bassett to join his club, Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, had yesterday to admit that the man in charge at Crystal Palace has had a change of heart. George Graham has already turned the job down and Howard Kendall resisted an informal approach.

A month has passed since Alan Ball was sacked as manager — the fifth to depart Maine Road in five years. In the case of Bassett, and almost certainly Graham and Kendall too, the prospective manager spoke to those who went before him, and did not like what he heard.

Yesterday, the chairman was in defensive mood. "I don't interfere with managers. I've never heard so much bunkum in my life," Lee said. "Brian Horton and Alan Ball will tell you that, I do not even know what the team will be on match days and I would never dream of interfering."

Lee was angry and frustrated at the way in which he believes Bassett used the club after agreeing to take the job and then, within six hours, deciding that he had made a terrible mistake. The fact remains, however, that the search for a manager has reached farcical levels.



Bassett: change of heart

Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, returned from a scouting mission to Europe yesterday amid suggestions that he was on the verge of signing Oliver Bierhoff, the Germany international who plays in Italy with Udinese. But Harford insisted that he had in fact been in Spain, and that he was closer to completing the transfer of the top class forward he so craves.

City, however, must reflect on Bassett's words yesterday. "I just feel this job is not right for me because we are developing a smashing young squad at Palace and I do not want to abandon the good work we have done," he said.

The inference is that such a scenario at Maine Road is some distance away. Under Lee, City have been relegated.

### MORSE

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